



Daily Report

Near East & South Asia

FBIS-NES-89-036
Friday
24 February 1989

Daily Report

Near East & South Asia

FBIS-NES-89-036

CONTENTS

24 February 1989

MIDDLE EAST & SOUTH ASIA REVIEW

24 February Middle East and South Asia Review	1
---	---

INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

Inter-Arab Affairs

Arab League Committee Meets To Discuss Lebanon	3
Kuwaiti Minister Chairs Talks [KUNA]	3
Ministers Meet Clergymen [KUNA]	3
Committee Meets Lebanese Mufti [KUNA]	3
Statement Issued on Lebanon [KUNA]	4

Palestinian Affairs

Al-Asad, 'Arafat Said Invited To Meet in Moscow [MENA]	5
'Arafat Sends Message to Mubarak in Tokyo [MENA]	5
'Arafat Chairs Supreme Military Council Meetings [Abu Dhabi AL-ITTIHAD 22 Feb]	5
PFLP Denounces 'Arafat, Khalaf Statements [Radio Monte Carlo]	6
Abu Sharif Cited on USSR Mideast Policy [London TV]	6
Faysal al-Husayni on Israeli Contacts [London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT 18 Feb]	6

ARAB AFRICA

Algeria

Referendum Approves Proposed Constitution [Algiers Radio]	9
Islamic Movement on 'Positive' Constitution Reform [Algiers EL MOUDJAHID 19 Feb]	9
'Rectified Statement' Issued [Algiers LE MOUDJAHID 20 Feb]	9

Egypt

Mubarak Travels to Tokyo for Hirohito Funeral	10
Meets Bush, Other Officials [Cairo Radio]	10
Meeting With Bush 'Excellent' [Cairo Radio]	10
Meets With Mitterrand [MENA]	11
Meets Israeli Counterpart [MENA]	11
Further on Talks With Herzog [Tokyo KYODO]	11
Holds Talks With King Husayn [MENA]	11
Receives PLO Official [MENA]	12
Further on Shevardnadze Visit to Cairo	12
Gives Statement on Talks [MENA]	12
Gives News Conference [MENA]	14
Concludes Visit, Departs [MENA]	15
PLO's 'Arafat Continues Visit to Cairo	15
Holds News Conference	15
Further on News Conference [Cairo Radio]	16
Meets With Israeli Journalists [MENA]	16
Asked To Aid 5 Israelis [MENA]	17
Concludes Visit, Leaves 23 Feb [MENA]	17

Libya

Court Urges Lifting U.S. Freeze on Funds [Tripoli Radio]	17
Al-Qadhdhafi Speaks With Envoys on Maghreb Union [Tripoli TV]	18
USSR Lauds Al-Qadhdhafi's Afghan Peace Moves [JANA]	18

Sudan

Government Responds to 'Strong' Army Memorandum	18
Al-Mahdi Calls Cabinet Meeting [KUNA]	18
State Council Responds to Memo [SUNA]	19
Al-Mahdi Promises Statement [Omdurman Radio]	19
'Intensive Meetings' Take Place [MENA]	19
Spokesman Discusses Meeting [MENA]	20
Prime Minister Replies to Memo [MENA]	20
Military Spokesman on Unity of Armed Forces [MENA]	20
Committee Seeks Support for Armed Forces [Khartoum Radio]	21
Al-Mahdi Cancels Trip to Hirohito Funeral [Omdurman Radio]	21
'Christian Citizen' Caught With 'Satanic Verses' [SUNA]	21

Algeria

Polisario Front Threatens Resumption of Violence [Algiers Radio]	21
--	----

ARABIAN PENINSULA

Bahrain

British Trade Minister Arrives With Delegation [WAKH]	22
Confers With Amir [WAKH]	22
Meets With Commerce Minister [WAKH]	22
Departs 21 Feb [WAKH]	22

Kuwait

Government Denies Resumption of Flights to Iran [KUNA]	22
--	----

Qatar

Amir, Heir Apparent Hail Arab Groupings [WAKH]	22
Minister Receives Message From Iranian Minister [WAKH]	23

Yemen Arab Republic

Salih on Arab Grouping, Other Issues [Sanaa Radio]	23
Al-'Attar Makes Statement, Leaves for Morocco [Sanaa Radio]	23

IRAQ

Shevardnadze Arrives in Baghdad 23 Feb [INA]	24
Criticizes Israel's Position [WAKH]	24
Airspace Reopened for International Flights [INA]	24
President Ratifies ACC Foundation Agreement [Baghdad Radio]	25
Ramadan Departs Baghdad for Bulgaria 21 Feb [INA]	25
Returns From Sofia 22 Feb [INA]	25

ISRAEL

SLA Kills 3 'Terrorists' in Security Zone [Jerusalem Radio]	27
Foreign Ministry Statement [Jerusalem Radio]	27
UNIFIL Soldier Reported Killed by SLA Fire [Tel Aviv Radio]	27

Prime Minister Returns From France, Comments [Jerusalem Radio]	27
Shamir on Soviet Role [Paris LE FIGARO 21 Feb]	27
Further Reportage on Shamir Visit to France [cross-reference]	29
Arens on Peace Plan, Mubarak, Soviet Relations [Jerusalem TV]	29
Envoy: USSR Condition for Ties 'Unacceptable' [Tel Aviv Radio]	30
USSR's Bogdanov Comments [Jerusalem TV]	32
More on Bogdanov Remarks [THE JERUSALEM POST 21 Feb]	32
Researcher: Ties To Improve [Tel Aviv Radio]	33
Cairo Meeting Viewed as Part of 'Larger Picture' [YEDI'OT AHARONOT 23 Feb]	33
Daily Comments on USSR Ties Normalization [DAVAR 23 Feb]	34
Rabin Leaves for Lecture Tour in London [YEDI'OT AHARONOT 24 Feb]	34
Publisher Requested Not To Print Rushdie Book [Jerusalem International]	34
Peres Expected To Move for Early Elections [HA'ARETZ 16 Feb]	35
Rabin Outlines Goals for Territories [THE JERUSALEM POST 21 Feb]	35
Al-Husayni, Nusaybah Comment on Meetings [AL-FAJR 19 Feb]	36
Journalists on Meetings [Jerusalem TV]	37
Drop in Support for Annexing Territories Noted [MA'ARIV 17 Feb]	38
IDF Adopting New Measures To Reduce Violence [Jerusalem Radio]	38
Officer: IDF Leaving 'Deep Deposits of Hatred' [THE JERUSALEM POST 17 Feb]	38
Nabulus Mayor Only One To Have Resigned [MA'ARIV 23 Feb]	39
Firebomb Thrown on Haifa-Nazareth Highway [Jerusalem Radio]	39
IDF Soldier Killed by Stone in Nabulus 24 Feb [Jerusalem Radio]	39
Further on Incidents, Casualties in Territories	39
3 Injured in West Bank [Jerusalem Radio]	39
2 'Terror' Squads Uncovered [Jerusalem Radio]	40
Gaza High School To Reopen [Tel Aviv Radio]	40
7 Wounded in Demonstrations [Tel Aviv Radio]	40
Further on 23 Feb Disturbances [THE JERUSALEM POST 24 Feb]	40
Fatah 'Terrorists' Jailed [Jerusalem Radio]	40

JORDAN

King Husayn Meets Mubarak, Perez de Cuellar [Amman Radio]	41
'Confederation Agreement' With PLO Planned [Abu Dhabi AL-ITTIHAD 21 Feb]	41
Columnist Justifies Anger Over Rushdie Book [AL-RA'Y 23 Feb]	41
Iraqi Oil Minister Arrives in Amman 21 Feb [Amman Radio]	42
Meets With Al-Rifa'i [INA]	42
Al-Rifa'i on ACC, Rescheduling Foreign Debts [SAWT AL-SHA'B 23 Feb]	42
Soviet Foreign Minister Welcomes ACC [Amman Radio]	42
Al-Qasim Returns, Comments on Kuwait Meetings [Amman Radio]	42
Crown Prince Urges Change in Consumption Pattern [JORDAN TIMES 22 Feb]	43
Commends Economic Measures [Amman Radio]	43

LEBANON

Hizballah Announces Intent To Kill Rushdie [AFP]	44
Qabalan Supports Khomeyni Ban on 'Satanic Verses' [Voice of the Oppressed]	44
Sha'ban Supports Khomeyni Edict [Voice of the Oppressed]	44
Al-Huss Welcomes Revival of State Institutions [Beirut Radio]	44
Franjiyah To Give Port to 'Legitimate' Government [VOL]	44
'Awn Government Decides To Close Illegal Ports [VOL]	45
'Awn Interviewed on Talks With Lebanese Forces [Beirut Radio]	45
Army Refers Lebanese Forces Personnel to Court [VOM]	45
Army Members Enter Houses, Beat Citizens [RFL]	45
Demonstrators Support Army in East Beirut [VOM]	45
Lebanese Forces Reportedly Fortify Positions [VOM]	45
Ja'ja' Aide Succumbs to Wounds From Car Attack [VOM]	46
VOL Reports UNIFIL Soldier Killed	46
Further on UNIFIL Shooting [AFP]	46
Amal, Palestinians Reportedly Fortify Positions [RFL]	46
Syrians Raid Hizballah Arms Depots in Suburb [RFL]	46

'Forces of the Free Arab' Attack Syrian Position	[RFL]	46
DFLP Claims 3 Israeli Soldiers Injured in Clash	[VOM]	47

SYRIA

Commentary Views Shevardnadze Talks, USSR Ties	[Damascus Radio]	48
Vice President Receives Bulgarian Officials	[SANA]	48
Talas Receives CSSR Trade Minister, General	[Damascus TV]	48
State Minister Meets With Canadian Delegation	[Damascus Radio]	49
Khalid 'Abd al-Nasir Greets Al-Asad on Unity Day	[Damascus Radio]	49
Paper Decries 'Zionist Influence' in Lebanon	[SANA]	49

SOUTH ASIA

Afghanistan

Mujadeddi, Sayyaf Win Shura Government Vote	[AFP]	50
'Interim Government' Portfolios	[Islamabad Radio]	50
AFP Profiles New Premier		50
AFP Profiles New President		50
Iran-Based Spokesman on Political Developments	[IRNA]	51
Kabul Regime Creating 'Artificial Famine'	[IRNA]	51
Situation Deteriorates	[Islamabad Radio]	51
Wheat, Flour Supplies 'Critical'	[AFP]	52
Tanay Congratulates Yazov on Anniversary	[Kabul Radio]	52
Najibullah Sends Message to Egypt's Mubarak	[Kabul Radio]	52
Najibullah Holds Talks With GDR Ambassador	[BAKHTAR]	53
Presidential Decree on Hazara Affairs	[Kabul Radio]	53
Najibullah Issues Decree Promoting Officers	[Kabul Radio]	53
National Assembly To Convene 25 Feb	[Kabul Radio]	53
Pakistani Envoy Summoned Over Violations	[Kabul Radio]	53
Security Forces Seize Weapons, Explosives	[Kabul Radio]	54
Military Situation in Provinces Detailed	[Kabul Radio]	54
'Extremists' Clash in Alingar District 23 Feb	[Kabul Radio]	54

Bangladesh

Chinese Flood Experts Meet Irrigation Minister	[Dhaka International]	54
Agreement Signed for Jute Exports to USSR	[Dhaka International]	55
Turkish Premier in Dhaka En Route to Tokyo	[Dhaka Radio]	55

India

Venkataraman Meets With President Bush in Tokyo	[Delhi Radio]	55
Turkish President Evren Continues Visit		55
Meets With Commerce Minister	[Ankara Radio]	55
Departs Delhi for Agra	[Delhi Radio]	55
Iraqi Envoy Arrives With Message for Gandhi	[INA]	56
Meets With Indian Officials	[INA]	56
Defense Minister Hopes for Normalcy in Sri Lanka	[Delhi Radio]	56
Agitation Disrupts Delhi-Howrah Railway Traffic	[Delhi Radio]	56
Student Strike Disrupts 'Normal Life' in Assam	[Delhi Radio]	56
Editorial Supports Plans To Boost Arms Exports	[THE HINDUSTAN TIMES 2 Feb]	56

Iran

USSR's Eduard Shevardnadze To Meet Khomeyni	[IRNA]	57
'Text' of Khomeyni Message to Teachers, Students	[Tehran Radio]	57
Further Reportage on Response to Rushdie Book		66
Islamic Jihad To Take Revenge	[Tehran TV]	66
Majlis Speaker on West's Position	[IRNA]	67

Foreign Ministry on Edict [IRNA]	68
Majlis Statement Condemns 'Plot' [IRNA]	68
Relations With UK Reviewed [IRNA]	69
UK Paper on EC Position Cited [IRNA]	69
'Cultural' Confrontation Seen [Tehran Radio]	70
Paper Urges Coordination in Official Positions [RESALAT 7 Feb]	71
Polish Economic Minister Arrives for Talks [IRNA]	72
Meets With Velayati [IRNA]	72
Plan, Budget Minister Departs for Romania [IRNA]	72
Amnestied Prisoners Demonstrate Outside Mission [IRNA]	72
Third Group of Iraqi POW's Departs Tehran [IRNA]	73

Nepal

Indian Foreign Minister Invited To Review Treaty [AFP]	73
--	----

Pakistan

Bhutto Meets Foreign Leaders in Tokyo 23 Feb [Islamabad Radio]	73
To Meet Bush 24 Feb [Tokyo KYODO]	74
Scientist Denies Missiles Carry Nuclear Warheads [Islamabad Radio]	74
Bhutto Discusses Punjab 'Political Dispute' [Islamabad Radio]	74
Minister Rejects Faisalabad Riot Allegations [Islamabad Radio]	75
Punjab Administration Accused of Election Fraud [Islamabad Radio]	75
Punjab Chief on Nationals in Bangladesh [Islamabad Radio]	75
PRC Vice Minister for Trade Relations Arrives [Islamabad Radio]	75

24 February Middle East and South Asia Review

LD2402143189 [Editorial report]

Shevardnadze Tour

Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze called on Israel to accept an international conference on the Middle East in order to achieve an "historic compromise" between the Arabs and the Israelis, TASS reported citing Shevardnadze's 23 February speech delivered at the Egyptian ruling party's headquarters.

He declared that Israel no longer has "a pretext" for refusing dialogue with the PLO and is "alone" in opposing a peace conference.

Shevardnadze pointed out that all sides in the region require "firm guarantees" against an attack and suggested setting up a "regional center for the reduction of military danger."

He added that it is also "expedient and timely" to establish a "special representative" of the UN secretary general to be responsible for the Middle East.

At a news conference immediately following his address, the Soviet foreign minister stressed that it is "essential to exclude any attempts to isolate anyone" in preparations for a peace conference, according to TASS.

He pointed out that the USSR's idea for a meeting of Security Council members to prepare for an international conference "has not yet found backing in the Security Council," but he added "we are not imposing a preparatory" meeting.

The Soviet foreign minister, who has since left Egypt for Iraq, criticized President George Bush's call for "limiting" the USSR's role in the Middle East as "unacceptable" and declared that the United States is "not capable" of resolving the Middle East issue alone, MENA reported.

Upon his arrival in Baghdad, he told journalists that his talks in Iraq will include bilateral relations and the need to "give a forward push" to the Iraq-Iran peace negotiations, according to INA.

'Arafat News Conference

PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat, at a 23 February news conference in Cairo, said that the PLO's decision to work for peace is "a strategic and not a tactical" decision and called on the Israelis to respond to the "historic opportunity" for peace in the region, MENA reported.

He welcomed apparent "changes" in Israel's stand on the peace process and hoped that the new U.S. Administration will define its policy on the Middle East "as soon as possible" so that practical steps toward an international peace conference can be taken.

Turning to the situation in the occupied territories, 'Arafat disclosed that he had given "strict orders" to the Palestinians to "refrain from using weapons in the intifadah [uprising]," MENA added.

Israel

Shamir Visit to France—Following his talks in Paris with French leaders, Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir gave a news conference in which he rejected the idea of an international peace conference and negotiations with the PLO, Jerusalem radio and AFP reported.

Shamir conceded that the USSR "can play a role" in establishing peace in the Middle East but that Moscow would first have to establish "normal relations" with Israel.

He called on Europe to play a "moderating role" in the region but ruled out any meeting with 'Arafat, AFP added.

Herzog-Mubarak Meeting—Egyptian President Husni Mubarak received Hayim Herzog, his Israeli counterpart, for talks in Tokyo, MENA reported. The two presidents are in Japan for the late emperor's funeral.

Inter-Arab Affairs

The Arab League committee on Lebanon issued a statement 23 February in Kuwait which urged the Lebanese factions not to miss the "historic opportunity" to "bail Lebanon out of its crisis," KUNA reported.

Kuwait Foreign Minister Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad al-Sabah told a news conference in Kuwait that the Lebanese problem is "not insoluble" but that a "constitutional and legal framework" is required for solving the problem, KUNA added.

Iran

Shevardnadze Visit—Soviet Foreign Minister Shevardnadze is expected to meet with Ayatollah Khomeini and Iranian officials during his 25 February visit to Iran, IRNA reported.

Commenting on the visit, Moscow radio asserted that the visit "should end a relatively long and not very favorable period" in relations between the two countries.

Khamene'i Visit to Romania—President 'Ali Khamene'i held a first round of talks with his Romanian counterpart Nicolae Ceausescu 23 February, Tehran television reported.

During the talks, Khamene'i described the division of the world into "strong and weak" as a "cause for much concern," and added that small countries must not ally themselves with or fall under the influence of the super-powers.

Cooperation between Third World countries would be a "guarantee against this," he declared.

Rushdie Affair—Tehran's rejection of Salman Rushdie's apology for the distress caused by book "The Satanic Verses" was viewed as a matter of "great regret" by Moscow's Peace and Progress radio.

Examining the reasons behind Tehran's "obstinacy and insistence," the radio declared that behind those who repeatedly confront the West's "contemptuous approaches" are people who "should not be pursuing the moral criteria of past centuries."

Resorting to "terror and threats" in this way can only exacerbate the international situation and will have "dangerous consequences" for Iran itself, the radio warned.

Iraq

Iraq reopened its airspace for commercial flights to and from Iran effective 23 February, INA reported.

Afghanistan

Mujahidin Shura—The Afghan shura meeting in Rawalpindi has elected Sibghatullah Mujaddedi as president of the interim Afghan government and Abul Rasool Sayyaf as prime minister, Islamabad radio reported.

Situation in Kabul—The law and order situation in Kabul has "deteriorated" with troops of the Kabul regime conducting "forcible conscription", around-the-clock house searches, and looting of homes, Islamabad radio reported.

Supplies of wheat and flour are "critical" and only two convoys of food aid have arrived in Kabul from the Soviet Union since 14 February, according to AFP.

Sudan

Prime Minister al-Sadiq al-Mahdi has responded to the Armed Forces' "memorandum" on the problems facing the country, MENA reported.

He explained the steps the government is taking to solve the problems and pointed out that the Armed Forces should consider its "constitutional commitment, military discipline, and expansion of the base of participation in ruling."

State Council member Mirghani al-Masri declared that the Army's response to the government's reply was "positive" and disclosed that the government is considering a program of further support for the Armed Forces, Khartoum National Unity Radio and SUNA reported.

Algeria

The 23 February referendum on a new constitution for Algeria was approved by 73 percent of the voters, Algiers radio reported.

Inter-Arab Affairs

Arab League Committee Meets To Discuss Lebanon

Kuwaiti Minister Chairs Talks

LD1902230889 Kuwait KUNA in English 1439 GMT
19 Feb 89

[Text] Kuwait, Feb 19 (KUNA)—Deputy Premier and Foreign Minister Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad al-Jabir Sunday met with Arab League Secretary General Chedli Klibi on the activities of the Arab League six-member committee in Lebanon.

Lebanese spiritual leaders have begun arriving here today to attend the second stage of the committee's work.

The trouble-shooting committee, headed by Shaykh Sabah, comprises the Arab League chief and the foreign ministers of Jordan, UAE, Sudan, Tunisia and Algeria.

Later on, the deputy premier and foreign minister held a second meeting with Klibi over a luncheon, during which they discussed the issues to be tackled by the committee.

The meeting was attended by Foreign Undersecretary Sulayman Majid al-Shahin and other senior ministry officials.

Shaykh Sabah also chaired a meeting for senior ministry officials, in which members of the legal and constitutional committee on Lebanon, formed recently by Shaykh Sabah, took part. The conferees discussed in depth the Lebanese situation, particularly what the committee outlined as a solution to the crisis.

KUNA learnt that a solution to the Lebanese ordeal aims at ending the foreign presence in Lebanon, electing a new president, rebuilding the state's constitutional institutions, devastated by a 14-year-old civil war.

Ministers Meet Clergymen

LD2102093289 Kuwait KUNA in English 0814 GMT
21 Feb 89

[Text] Kuwait, Feb 21 (KUNA)—Five foreign ministers of the Arab League committee trying to solve the Lebanese crisis met here this morning before the planned talks with Lebanese spiritual leaders.

The six-man ministerial committee also includes the Tunisian foreign minister, who is due here later today to join the talks, and the United Arab Emirates, Sudan, Tunisia and the Arab League chief.

The meetings are chaired by the committee head, Kuwaiti deputy premier and foreign affairs minister, Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad al-Jabir.

Discussions will review an elaborate Arab working paper on the Lebanese conflict and proposals presented to salvage the war-torn country.

The ministerial talks this morning are in preparation for the committee's meeting with the Lebanese spiritual leaders that represent six Islamic and Christian sects.

The top Lebanese clergymen arrived here Sunday [19 February] evening and held talks with his highness the amir, Shaykh Jabir al-Ahmad al-Sabah and His Highness the Crown Prince and Prime Minister Shaykh Sa'd al-'Abdallah al-Sabah.

The committee later met separately with both Christian and Muslim spiritual leaders. Discussions revived the suggestions presented by the spiritual leaders on ending the conflict in Lebanon.

The committee presented the spiritual leaders with up-to-date reports on its latest contacts.

Christian Maronite Patriarch Nasrallah Butrus and two of his aids, George Ali Sabir and Bolus Sadah were first to meet the committee. [spelling of names as received]

The meeting was held behind closed doors and chaired by Kuwaiti Deputy Premier and Prime Minister Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad al-Jabir.

KUNA learned that the committee reviewed in its preparatory meeting, held before holding talks with the Lebanese spiritual leaders, an Arab working paper and a constitutional and legal study prepared by the Kuwaiti Foreign Ministry.

The committee met also with Lebanon's Mufti Shaykh Hassan Khaled and will later [words indistinct] the remaining religious leaders.

Committee Meets Lebanese Mufti

LD2202175289 Kuwait KUNA in English 1322 GMT
22 Feb 89

[Text] Kuwait, Feb 21 (KUNA)—The Arab League six-man committee on Lebanon adjourned its second work session Tuesday, during which committee members met with Lebanon's Mufti Shaykh Hasan Khalid.

Khalid expressed his profound satisfaction over what took place during the meeting, hoping that the committee would meet success in the task at hand.

Sources at the meeting told KUNA that Shaykh Khalid thanked the committee and expressed his gratitude to Kuwait, which embraced this meeting.

On whether a broad meeting would follow the one-on-one encounters between the members of the committee and the other spiritual leaders, Khalid said "we always meet, but this broad meeting is up to the Arab League

Secretary General Chedli Klibi," who in turn said that the contacts are continuous and fruitful, hoping for good and positive outcome of the meetings.

KUNA learnt from informed sources that the committee, through its meetings with Shaykh Khalid and Maronite Patriarch Nasrallah Sfayr, sensed a common ground to resolve the Lebanese crisis, which is based on gradually eliminating confessionalism, realising the needed reforms, electing a new president and working toward a strong and united Lebanon.

On the other hand, head of the committee and Kuwait's Deputy Premier and Foreign Minister Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmed affirmed that hope is always there toward reaching a solution, stressing "if we had lost hope, we wouldn't have met and gathered."

The committee is due to confer with the rest of the spiritual leaders later today to get acquainted with their views for a solution to the ordeal.

Statement Issued on Lebanon

LD2302163189 Kuwait KUNA in English 1205 GMT
23 Feb 89

[Text] Kuwait, Feb 23 (KUNA)—Deputy Premier and Foreign Minister Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad Thursday said Lebanese spiritual leaders are determined to bring an end to the Lebanese crisis and maintain the country's unity and sovereignty.

Shaykh Sabah, who heads an Arab League six-man committee on the Lebanese crisis, read out a statement at the outset of a press conference held here after the committee concluded a three-day meeting.

"The committee had felt responsiveness and cooperation from the spiritual leaders towards its mission. The delegations were characterized with a spirit of fraternity, openness and clear-cut vision to achieve the desired objective," the statement read.

Shaykh Sabah said the spiritual leaders were received by h.h. the amir and h.h. the crown prince and premier, Shaykh Sa'd al-'Abdallah al-Salim al-Sabah, who expressed their keenness on rescuing Lebanon from its crisis.

Shaykh Sabah said he and the Arab League's Secretary General Chedli Klibi held bilateral contacts and separate consultations with the Lebanese spiritual leaders and listened to their viewpoints while the religious leaders contacted each other, a matter which was reflected positively on the committee's work.

The committee then went into a plenary meeting with all the spiritual leaders in which they demonstrated a sense of confidence and cooperation and a common desire for settling the Lebanese crisis.

"The Lebanese spiritual leaders have expressed keenness on rescuing Lebanon, putting an end to its sufferings and maintaining its unity and sovereignty on the basis of equality and justice according to its Arab affiliation as well as reactivating the country's institutions. They also agreed on the principle of reforms," Shaykh Sabah added.

"The committee appeals to the Lebanese people and all their leaders and sects to understand its sincere role to renounce their differences and build confidence among each other as the solution depends on their will to achieve national reconciliation," he said.

"The committee believes that there is a historic opportunity in the Lebanese, Arab and international arenas to bail Lebanon out of its crisis and we hope the Lebanese factions would not miss it," Shaykh Sabah added.

He said the committee would shortly contact other Lebanese parties to get acquainted with their viewpoints and offer good offices to settle the Lebanese crisis.

Shaykh Sabah called on the press to be objective in their coverage of the Lebanese crisis and to support the committee by providing a positive and constructive atmosphere to facilitate its work.

Shaykh Sabah said the Lebanese crisis was not insoluble, indicating there should be constitutional and legal framework for solving the problem.

He said he would consider that issue with Lebanese leadership in the third stage which he affirmed would take place before the 27th of next March, the date for the convening of the regular session of the League's council.

Shaykh Sabah said the committee feels it was on the right way and that the cooperation of the Lebanese brothers would assist in reaching a way out.

He said the meeting with the Lebanese political leaders would be under the umbrella of the Arab League but he stopped short of specifying the venue, saying any Arab country was a suitable place for convening it.

Shaykh Sabah said: "The foreign occupation of Lebanon is the Israeli occupation while the Syrian presence was in implementation of an Arab resolution. No one has asked the Syrian army to pull out except during the Arab summit in Fes which left the matter for the consultation of the Lebanese and Syrian governments."

He said the Syrians would pull out when there is authority and a government of national reconciliation in Lebanon.

Shaykh Sabah said Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad had assured him of his support to the Arab League's six-man committee during his recent visit to Damascus, indicating

that the Syrian-Soviet communique, issued following the visit of Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze has also voiced support to the committee.

He said he would visit Syria at any time and whenever necessary "because Syria is a partner to the committee in solving problems and facilitating some difficulties."

Shaykh Sabah said he was optimistic regarding the regional and international concern about the Lebanese crisis in addition to what he had heard from the Lebanese leaderships.

Asked by the Lebanese leaders who would be invited to the third meeting, Shaykh Sabah said the committee would invite the most politically and geographically effective in the Lebanese arena, saying the matter was considered by the committee.

He expressed hope that those leaders would respond to the committee's call as all are fed up with fighting between brothers.

Shaykh Sabah expressed appreciation for the head of the Lebanese military government Gen. Michel 'Awn who assured him that arms are not the means for settling problems and that nothing would hamper the solution if the politicians agreed.

He said the committee had sent memorandums to the U.N. Security Council's permanent member states demanding them to work towards ending the Israeli occupation of southern Lebanon according to their promises in this regard.

Shaykh Sabah said the committee's meeting with the Lebanese spiritual leaders was more serious and more expanded than the previous one in Tunis, saying this will give the committee more hope in the third meeting with the politicians.

"We did not mean to drag the spiritual leaders into politics but we sought their help for reforms on the basis of justice and equity," he added.

Shaykh Sabah said election of a Lebanese president depends on achievement of national reconciliation and should be acceptable to all parties.

Palestinian Affairs

Al-Asad, 'Arafat Said Invited To Meet in Moscow
NC2402111889 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1055 GMT
24 Feb 89

[Text] Riyadh, 24 Feb (MENA)—The Saudi paper AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT today quoted Palestinian sources as saying that Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze has invited Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad to visit Moscow to hold a meeting with PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat, who has received an official invitation to visit Moscow.

The paper said the meeting will be held under the aegis of Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev in a bid to achieve a comprehensive reconciliation between Syria and the PLO and to find bases for a just settlement of the Middle East issue.

The Palestinian sources said they are not aware of any decision by the Soviet Union to invite any Israeli official to visit Moscow following the Al-Asad-'Arafat meeting to discuss the issue of convening an international peace conference.

'Arafat Sends Message to Mubarak in Tokyo
NC2402105389 Cairo MENA in English 1045 GMT
24 Feb 89

[Text] Cairo, Feb 24 (MENA)—Chairman of the Executive Committee of the Palestine Liberation Organisation Yasir 'Arafat sent an urgent message to President Husni Mubarak in Tokyo. The Palestinian leader sent the message just before his departure from Cairo early today.

PLO representative in Cairo, Sa'id Kamal said that the message dealt with the outcome of the talks held by 'Arafat with Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze in Cairo, who acquainted him with the Soviet stance vis-a-vis the recent developments of the Palestinian cause.

Kamal said that the message also dealt with the latest developments on the Palestinian arena and efforts being exerted to convene an international peace conference for solving the Palestinian cause.

'Arafat arrived in Cairo on Wednesday where he held a meeting with Shevardnadze at the premises of the Soviet Embassy in the Egyptian capital. The Palestinian leader also met with Egyptian Deputy Premier and Foreign Minister Dr 'Ismat 'Abd al-Majid.

'Arafat Chairs Supreme Military Council Meetings
JN2302204289 Abu Dhabi AL-ITTIHAD in Arabic
22 Feb 89 p 1

[Text] AL-ITTIHAD has learned that Yasir 'Arafat, PLO Executive Committee chairman and commander in chief of the Palestinian Revolution Forces, at the beginning of the week chaired important meetings for the Supreme Military Council to study political and military developments in the occupied territories.

Palestinian sources in Tunis revealed to AL-ITTIHAD that during these meetings, which were held on Sunday and Monday [19 and 20 February], the Supreme Military Council discussed developments of events in the occupied territory, Zionist oppressive methods against the heroic intifadah [uprising], and the savage and inhumane practices of the occupation troops against citizens, in addition to a number of current events, which the sources declined to reveal.

PFLP Denounces 'Arafat, Khalaf Statements
JN2302142289 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic
1200 GMT 23 Feb 89

[Excerpts] In a new move that may exacerbate differences between Palestinian factions, Fatah Central Committee member Abu Iyad [Salah Khalaf] has proposed public or private direct negotiations between Israel and the PLO to reach an agreement before the convocation of an international conference for peace in the Middle East.

Abu Iyad's statement came on a videocassette that was recorded in Tunis and screened in Jerusalem during the International Committee for Peace in the Middle East symposium. [passage omitted]

Direct negotiations with Israel—a phrase not previously included in the Palestinian political terminology—has stirred violent criticism by Palestinian factions from both inside and outside the PLO.

A spokesman for the PFLP Political Bureau strongly denounced the statements of 'Arafat and Abu Iyad. He said these statements contradict the PNC resolutions and constitute a heavy burden on national Palestinian unity.

In Damascus, a spokesman for Fatah-the Provisional Command led by Abu Musa [Sa'id Musa Muragha] described Abu Iyad's recent statements as dangerous, as they constitute complete submission to Israel's conditions and are basically aimed at liquidating the Palestinian armed struggle and terminating the uprising, as the spokesman put it.

Abu Sharif Cited on USSR Mideast Policy
PM2302151089 London ITV Television Network
in English 1900 GMT 22 Feb 89

[Interview with Bassam Abu Sharif, senior adviser to PLO Chairman Yasir 'Arafat, by foreign affairs correspondent David Smith in London, monitored in progress in the framework of Channel 4 "News"; no date given—recorded]

[Text] [Smith] In London, we spoke to Bassam Abu Sharif, Yasir 'Arafat's senior adviser. He says the Soviets are sticking to the agreement they reached with the Reagan administration.

[Abu Sharif] They have agreed with the Americans at that last summit in Moscow—it was Reagan-Gorbachev summit—they've agreed to put joint efforts in order to find a political settlement to the Middle East problem. The Shevardnadze visit is very important because it is the first of this sort, and the Soviet Union has launched this directly after its ending of its presence—military presence—in Afghanistan, and Soviets feel quite free now to put that effort in order to bring the parties concerned in the Middle East conflict to the table of negotiations.

[Smith] Do you now expect the Soviets to coordinate their moves from this point on with the Americans?

[Abu Sharif] Shevardnadze will definitely use the first results of his contact to convince the Americans that it's high time the joint effort [words indistinct] the United States and the Soviet Union. The Bush administration is now formulating its policy on the Middle East, but this doesn't mean that the American Administration is not having that important continuity factor. I mean, they know what is going on in the Middle East, and the fact that they have published a report about the Israeli violation of Palestinian human rights is a very important indication that the United States is definitely against what is going on.

[Smith] But can you see the Americans moving...

[Abu Sharif, interrupting] The Americans will definitely...

[Smith, interrupting] ...in, in the short term, because there is a general feeling that unless there's some movement in the next few months, this initiative—even if the superpowers have agreed—could die, could wither on the vine.

[Abu Sharif] The initiative launched by the Palestinians will not die because it's not a short-term policy. It's a strategy. What the Palestinians are offering is real peace, not a truce.

[Smith] What is going to happen to this peace process, though, if the Israelis simply refuse to negotiate with you, the PLO?

[Abu Sharif] We are very glad that although Israeli Government has tried to obstruct and put obstacles in the road for peace in the Middle East, the momentum has been kept in a way that will ensure that the interest of the five permanent members of the Security Council would not dwindle, and I think that the year '89 will be a very important year, will be a very important year for establishment of peace in the Middle East, whether the Israeli Government likes it or not.

[Smith] Tonight, the PLO made a new appeal to the Israelis offering direct talks and not demanding an international conference. One of 'Arafat's deputies appealed to every Israeli man, woman, and child—as he put it—to listen to what the Palestinians were saying before, he said, the newfound momentum is lost.

Faysal al-Husayni on Israeli Contacts
PM2402111689 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT
in Arabic 18 Feb 89 p 3

[Interview with Faysal al-Husayni, Palestinian "struggler" and head of Jerusalem's Arab Studies Society, by Zaki Musa in London; date not given]

[Text] [Musa] What was the nature of your recent meetings with officials?

[Al-Husayni] The meetings focused on explaining the PLO position and answering the questions and fears they raise these days.

There is a clear fact, which we sense in the occupied territories, namely, that Israeli society today is not as it was a few years ago. It now thinks seriously about the need to find a solution to the crisis in which it is involved and which has begun to cause unease within party circles and even military and popular circles. This is why we Palestinians inside the occupied territories have embarked on this approach by taking the initiative and talking to them.

[Musa] Was Yosi Beilin's meeting with you part of this new reality?

[Al-Husayni] Yosi Beilin is a deputy to Israeli Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres and represents a substantial current within the Israeli Labor Party. This current's position is summed up in the fact that if the Israeli Government, as a government, is unable to initiate a dialogue with the Palestinians and the Labor Party, as a party, is not working in this direction in the desired way, it is our duty as a group to initiate such a dialogue.

[Musa] What did Yosi Beilin propose to you during the meeting?

[Al-Husayni] He inquired about the Palestinian view of how peace can be achieved with Israel and what steps should be taken to encourage other government members to "come down from the tall tree they have climbed, and talk and deal with those sitting under that tree." This was one of the expressions that Beilin used. He was very understanding of our viewpoint.

[Musa] In what capacity did you talk with these Israeli figures?

[Al-Husayni] I was not alone at the talks. In fact, I had with me a group of youths representing various intellectual tendencies. They included Dr Sari Nusaybah, Dr Hanan Mikha'il 'Asrawi, Sam'an Khuri, Ghassan al-Khatib, Khalil Khishin, Ziyad Abu Zayyad, and Mamduh al-Ikir.

[Musa] Many people outside have the impression that you could fall victim to an Israeli deception that could lead to the emergence of an alternative leadership to the PLO to conduct a dialogue with the Israelis. What is your opinion?

[Al-Husayni] We cannot and will not accept under any circumstances our becoming an alternative to the leadership of the Palestinian people either inside or in the diaspora—that is, the PLO. We have reiterated this more than once. We have said that the PLO represents us all, and we would refuse to replace it. Any doubters must understand this. We explained this to the Israelis with

whom we met. They have begun to understand this fact and the extent of our adherence to the PLO as our people's sole legitimate representative.

[Musa] What party groups have you met with so far, and whom do they represent?

[Al-Husayni] They are groups from the Labor Party, MAPAM, Ratz, and other quarters that openly stress the need to secure a peaceful solution with the Arabs.

[Musa] Your meeting in prison with the Israeli defense minister's adviser prompted much speculation before your release. What is the story behind that meeting?

[Al-Husayni] During my detention, the prison administration informed me that Shmu'el Goren, adviser to Defense Minister Rabin, wanted to talk with me. A meeting was then held, during which he hastened to say: I knew about you from the files I have, but the time has come to know you personally. We will release you, but before that we want to hear your view on a number of issues, and the nature and frankness of your answers to a number of questions will not affect our decision to release you.

[Musa] What were the questions?

[Al-Husayni] They included the following:

A—Why do you insist that the PLO is your legitimate representative?

B—What do you mean by the Palestinians' right to repatriation?

C—Is the Palestinian state that you currently demand the end of the road, or is it a step toward eliminating the state of Israel?

D—Why are you now persuaded to accept the partition resolution of 1947, when you did not accept it in 1947?

E—The intifadah [uprising] was launched by you. Why do you allow the PLO to harvest its fruit?

[Musa] What were your answers, and how did he react?

[Al-Husayni] All the answers were convincing. Obviously he had a previous political opinion. Before my release from prison he told me that our rejection of autonomy means wasting a good opportunity, as happened in the past. My reply was that no good opportunities on terms acceptable to us were given to us in the past.

[Musa] Was Goren assigned by Yitzhaq Rabin to address these questions?

[Al-Husayni] I think so. This, because it preceded Rabin's announcement of his recent plan.

[Musa] In view of this, how do you see future conditions?

[Al-Husayni] I am keen to point out that this intifadah will continue and its results will change many, many equilibriums, both within and outside Israel. Thanks to the intifadah and our people and their cohesion under the PLO leadership, we have taken many steps forward.

[Musa] What step do you expect Israel to take in the next stage?

[Al-Husayni] The present government faces two options: either to find a solution consistent with the Palestinian position and the international atmosphere; or to hold new elections in less than a year leading to the formation

of a government capable of making a decision representing the view of the Israeli majority seeking peace. My conviction in this regard is based on the failure of Rabin's policy to suppress the continuing uprising.

[Musa] How do you assess current cooperation between the various influential groups in the occupied territories?

[Al-Husayni] It is very strong. Despite claims to the contrary by some people, I confirm that this media distortion is made by media services working for the enemy. The leadership of the Palestinian people is in agreement on all aspects of Palestinian action at all levels. Differing views are a healthy phenomenon that we hope will continue, even after the actual establishment of the Palestinian state.

Algeria

Referendum Approves Proposed Constitution *LD2402093389 Algiers Domestic Service in Arabic* 0630 GMT 24 Feb 89

[Excerpts] The Algerian people voted yesterday in the referendum on the proposed constitution. They approved the new constitution. A 73-percent vote for the new constitution expresses a strong will for progress, prosperity, and an aspiration for a better future. [passage omitted]

The results of the referendum were given yesterday by Interior and environment minister Boubaker Belkaid:

[Begin Belkaid recording] Thanks be to God, the merciful and the compassionate. Citizens, peace be upon you. The Algerian people have approved the new draft constitution that was put before them, thereby emphasizing their determination to work for a better future; they have also achieved a historic and giant step which will enable the foundation of the kind of society to which they aspire and for which they have sacrificed themselves. [passage omitted]

The evidence of the awareness of our people of these realities and their ability to be at the level of major events are expressed through the results of the referendum on the constitution which I will announce to you, pending their ratification by the elected national committee and also in accordance with Article 116 of the electoral law.

number of voters:	10,400,557
numbers of votes cast:	9,928,438
number of yes votes:	7,290,760
number of no votes:	2,637,678
turnout percentage:	78.98%
percentage of yes votes according to votes cast:	73.43%

[passage omitted] [end recording]

Islamic Movement on 'Positive' Constitution Reform *PM2302113489 Algiers EL MOUDJAHID in French* 19 Feb 89 p 24

[Unattributed report: "In Favor of a Mass Vote"]

[Text] The APS agency yesterday received the Islamic movement's position on the constitutional changes, and the following is the text of their statement:

"Algeria is a land of Islam and Jihad.

"Their many instances of resistance have confirmed the Algerian people's Muslim authenticity. Immediately after national independence, the Algerian nation's main values were abandoned.

"Proposals for constitutional changes have recently been submitted to the Algerian people and their main provisions are regarded as positive in several ways.

"In addition, the Islamic movement proposes that:

"Islam is the main and sole source of legislation.

"The Koran is the source of the Constitution.

"Fundamental freedoms should be linked to the Algerian nation's values.

"The family code should be inspired by the shari'ah and its objectives.

"The Higher Islamic Council's mission to the Presidency should be defined.

"We are convinced that the president of the Republic has the necessary political courage to take these demands into consideration.

"May God guide us."

Signed: Ahmed Sahnoun, Mahfoud Nahnah, El-Mekki Abada.

Algiers 18 February 1989.

'Rectified Statement' Issued *PM2302115289 Algiers LE MOUDJAHID in French* 20 Feb 89 p 24

[APS report: "The Islamic Movement's Position on Proposed Constitutional Reform"]

[Text] The Islamic movement sent APS a statement yesterday evening rectifying the statement issued on Sunday. This is the full text of this rectified statement:

"Algeria is a land of Islam and Jihad. Their many instances of resistance have confirmed the Algerian people's Muslim authenticity.

"Immediately after national independence, the Algerian nation's main values were abandoned.

"Proposals for constitutional changes have recently been submitted to the Algerian people and their main provisions are regarded as positive in several ways.

"In addition, the Islamic movement proposes that:

"Islam is the main and sole source of legislation.

"The Koran is the source of the Constitution.

"Fundamental freedoms should be linked to the Algerian nation's values.

"The family code should be inspired by the shari'ah and its objectives.

"The Higher Islamic Council's mission to the Presidency should be defined.

"The family and the education system draw their laws from the Islamic shari'ah and its objectives.

"Furthermore, the Islamic movement has not given a judgment on the referendum because it thinks that this is part of the people's rights and the people have reached a degree of maturity and awareness which enables them to decide for themselves in complete freedom.

"In addition, we state that we are not involved in the publication of any communique other than this text.

"We are convinced that the president of the Republic has the necessary political courage to take these demands into consideration.

"May God guide us."

Signed: Shaykh Mahfoud Nahnah.

Egypt

Mubarak Travels to Tokyo for Hirohito Funeral

Meets Bush, Other Officials

NC2302120889 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic
1100 GMT 23 Feb 89

[Text] President Husni Mubarak today held a series of meetings in Tokyo, where he is participating in the funeral of late Japanese Emperor Hirohito. President Mubarak met with U.S. President George Bush. He had met earlier with Japanese Emperor Akihito and Prime Minister Noboru Takeshita. President Mubarak then met with Tunisian Prime Minister Hedj Baccouche and discussed the situation in the Arab world in view of the establishment of the Arab Cooperation Council [ACC].

In a statement after the meeting, the Tunisian prime minister said the ACC, Arab Maghreb Union, and the GCC represent the beginning of solidarity actions that we hope would serve the interests of the Arab world. The Tunisian prime minister praised relations with Egypt, describing these as excellent. He said that the two countries share identical views.

President Mubarak later met with Prince Nawwaf ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz, head of the Saudi delegation to the funeral, at the president's residence. In a statement after the meeting, the Saudi prince said he had discussed with the president all aspects of inter-Arab relations and bilateral relations. He expressed the two countries' eagerness to strengthen bilateral cooperation.

President Mubarak then met with U.S. President George Bush. The meeting was attended by Dr Butrus Ghali, minister of state for foreign affairs, and Dr Usamah al-Baz, director of the President's office for Political Affairs.

Meeting With Bush 'Excellent'

NC2302135489 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic
1230 GMT 23 Feb 89

[Text] President Muhammad Husni Mubarak conferred with U.S. President George Bush in the Japanese capital Tokyo today. This is the first meeting between the two presidents since the U.S. President came to office last January. Attending the meeting were Dr Butrus Ghali, minister of state for foreign affairs; Dr Usamah al-Baz, director of the President's Office for Political Affairs and first under secretary at the Foreign Ministry; Ambassador Wahib al-Minyawi, Egypt's ambassador to Tokyo; and Dr Mustafa al-Fiqi, presidential secretary for follow-up and information.

Attending the meeting on the U.S. side were: U.S. Secretary of State James Baker, White House Chief of Staff Sununu, and National Security Adviser Scowcroft.

Following the meeting, Dr al-Baz described the meeting as excellent. He said that President Bush had voiced his appreciation for the positive and active efforts made by Egypt. President Bush said that Egypt is a driving force behind the peace process in the Middle East and that it is an element of stability and progress in the region. Bush praised Egypt's efforts to bring about peace in the region and to bring the different positions closer.

The U.S. President expressed his desire and that of his new administration to work closely with President Mubarak with regard to bilateral cooperation in economic areas, to the peace process, and to African issues.

Al-Baz said that President Mubarak told President Bush that there is a need to maintain the current momentum and to strengthen the hopes for peace in the hearts of the Arabs and the Israelis. President Mubarak said that there is a need to make progress toward the holding of an international peace conference within the next few months so as not to weaken the peace supporters on both sides.

President Mubarak said that the PLO is following a constructive policy, to which the United States should show favorable response. President Mubarak added that all parties, including Israel, should work toward holding the international conference and should begin preparations for such a conference during this year.

President Mubarak also discussed with President Bush the situation in the Gulf and the need to terminate hostilities between Iraq and Iran and to launch reconstruction in the region.

As for African issues, President Mubarak mentioned the issue of African debts and called for intervention by the international community to resolve this issue.

President Bush invited President Mubarak to visit the United States. The visit is expected to take place within the next 2 months.

Meets With Mitterrand

NC2402120589 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1115 GMT
24 Feb 89

[Text] Tokyo, 24 Feb (MENA)—President Husni Mubarak met with French President Francois Mitterrand in Tokyo this evening. The meeting was held within the framework of President Mubarak's discussions with world leaders during his current visit to Japan. Dr Butrus Ghali, minister of state for foreign affairs, and Wahib al-Minyawi, Egypt's ambassador to Tokyo attended the meeting.

Following the meeting, Dr Mamduh al-Biltaji, chairman of the Public Information Authority, said that President Mubarak had told President Mitterrand that Egypt, in collaboration with the OAU, will host a international conference that will examine the debt issue. He added that invitations will be sent to officials of international financial and monetary institutions and experts from the permanent member states of the UN Security Council to attend the conference, which will be held in Cairo in September.

Dr al-Biltaji added that the two leaders had discussed ways to promote the good bilateral relations, prospects for increasing the volume of bilateral trade and economic cooperation, and France's contribution to development projects in Egypt. The two leaders also reviewed the recent changes in the Middle East and the results of the ongoing diplomatic and political efforts in this respect, in which Egypt is playing a pivotal role.

Dr al-Biltaji added that the two leaders had exchanged views and information on the positions of the various regional and international parties with regard to the issue of an international peace conference, which both countries agree should be convened in the presence of all the parties concerned as well as the five permanent members of the Security Council.

The discussion also touched on the situation in Africa, particularly with respect to the debt issue and the need for international cooperation to alleviate the debt burdens on the African countries. This would enable the African countries to create a more favorable atmosphere for economic development and would prevent the current recession and the low growth rates resulting from this indebtedness from adversely affecting international trade, thus harming the interests of the industrialized states at the same time.

Meets Israeli Counterpart

NC2302133789 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1333 GMT
23 Feb 89

[Text] Tokyo, 23 Feb (MENA)—President Muhammad Husni Mubarak received Israeli President Hayim Herzog in his place of residence in Tokyo this evening.

The meeting was attended by Dr Butrus Ghali minister of state for foreign affairs.

Further on Talks With Herzog

OW2302142389 Tokyo KYODO in English 1353 GMT
23 Feb 89

[Text] Tokyo, Feb. 23 KYODO—The presidents of Egypt and Israel held talks here on Thursday but failed to narrow their differences on the form peace talks in the region should take, spokesmen for both sides said.

Israeli President Hayim Herzog emerged from a 45-minute meeting in the hotel suite of Egyptian President Husni Mubarak saying he was pleased with the talks.

An Egyptian spokesman told reporters that the two leaders, both in Tokyo to attend the funeral of Emperor Hirohito, had agreed to "keep the momentum" in peace efforts.

But when asked if the two sides had discussed recent Soviet moves to encourage a U.N.-sponsored peace conference, the spokesman said there was "no story," an indication that the two sides still remained divided.

Mubarak, who met earlier this week in Cairo with Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze, has supported the proposed conference, which would include the participation of the Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO).

But Israel has repeatedly rejected calls for an international conference, instead calling for direct talks with Arab countries.

Meanwhile, Shevardnadze said in Cairo on Thursday that the Soviet Union was prepared to restore diplomatic relations with Israel if it joined in the peace conference.

An Israeli spokesman was not available for comment on the new proposal.

Holds Talks With King Husayn

NC2402100489 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0950 GMT
24 Feb 89

[Text] Tokyo, 24 Feb (MENA)—President Husni Mubarak met today with King Husayn of Jordan over a working lunch the Jordanian monarch hosted in his residence in Tokyo. The meeting between the two Arab leaders falls within the framework of the talks President Mubarak is holding on the sidelines of the funeral for late Japanese Emperor Hirohito.

During the meeting, the two leaders exchanged views on the latest developments in the Middle East and the Palestinian issue. They also reviewed the ongoing efforts to give momentum to the peace drive and to convene an international conference for peace.

Receives PLO Official

NC2302122989 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1211 GMT
23 Feb 89

[Text] Tokyo, 23 Feb (MENA)—Egyptian President Husni Mubarak received at his residence here this evening Nabil Sha'ath, political adviser to PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat, who has come to Tokyo to attend the funeral of late Emperor Hirohito. The meeting took place before President Mubarak's meeting with U.S. President George Bush.

Further on Shevardnadze Visit to Cairo

Gives Statement on Talks

NC2302105189 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1000 GMT
23 Feb 89

[Text] Cairo, 23 Feb (MENA)—Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze has stressed that, unless a peaceful and a comprehensive political solution to the Arab-Israeli conflict is found, events in the region that are governed by the logic of military confrontation could spiral out of control. This, he said, could threaten the region with an arms race, which sooner or later could turn into nuclear confrontation.

In a statement he delivered today at the headquarters of the NDP General Secretariat, Shevardnadze emphasized that the international conference provides an opportunity for a historic compromise between the Arabs and the Israelis. He added: We would like the Government of Israel to know that a decision by it to opt for an international conference and to agree to enter into a dialogue with the PLO could enable both our countries to embark on another step forward toward the restoration of full diplomatic relations.

Reviewing the development of the Arab-Israeli conflict, the Soviet foreign minister said that an initial solution had been reached a long time ago; namely, in UN General Assembly Resolution 181 of 1947, which adopted the plan for the partition of Palestine. He added: Today's events present us with the task of enabling the Palestinian people to enjoy their right to self-determination, returning the usurped rights to the Arabs, and guaranteeing for the State of Israel the right to a secure existence within the recognized borders.

Shevardnadze added: Reason does not accept the impossibility of accomplishing such a task, and, judging from the bitter experiences of history, the same reason says

that no party to the dispute could achieve its goals by force. Betting on the strongest will inevitably lead to the eruption of new wars, causing more bloodshed and destruction, he added.

The Soviet foreign minister pointed out that when the world community, including the Soviet Union, helped the Jewish people affirm their freedom of choice through the establishment of the State of Israel, it was expressing its respect not only for the sacred right to self-determination but also for the people who have deeply influenced the history of humanity and its accomplishments.

Now, he added, Israel has no right to deprive the Palestinian people of their freedom of choice. Israel will absolutely not strengthen its security by rejecting the [Palestinian people's] right to self-determination. On the contrary, it will undermine this security as well as the legitimacy of self-determination for itself.

Shevardnadze stressed that the Soviet Union believes that what could open the road toward a settlement in the Middle East is the recognition of the principle of a balance of interests, as the sole acceptable principle in relations between countries, peoples, and nationalities.

Shevardnadze said that when we think about the Arab-Israeli conflict, we cannot avoid posing this question: How long can this conflict drag on without a solution? Is there any possibility of achieving a solution other than a settlement that would satisfy the Palestinians and enable them to exercise their inalienable right to self-determination? He stressed that it is more likely that the pyramids would disappear before the Palestinians' aspirations for their homeland would disappear. This can be proven by the uprising, which has gained in scope and intensity.

Shevardnadze rejected the logic of those who believe that the big powers will not be affected much by the absence of a settlement in the Middle East. In this respect, he said, as regards my country, disturbances in the Middle East always have had a very strong effect on us. Tension in this area costs us much in all aspects, including the material one.

He pointed out that the current historic process to bring about disarmament in the world may stumble as a result of inertia in the Middle East. He said that the Middle East region ranks third in the world in terms of direct military expenditure, which in 1987 totalled approximately \$59 billion. This is because a false idea that is rejected nowadays everywhere still prevails in the Middle East: specifically, the more the weapons, the stronger the security.

He noted that a military potential has developed in the Middle East that far exceeds its real economic and demographic weight in the world. He stressed that the Middle East receives 61 percent of the world's arms exports and therefore constitutes a major obstacle to a

continuation of the promotion of the disarmament process to which the majority of the world peoples attach hopes for a better future. This situation also threatens these hopes and, for this reason, requires the search for a solution to the Middle East problem to be international in scope.

Shevardnadze noted that what is noticeable in this respect is that the constructive steps in the Middle East are only taken by the Palestinian party. He stressed that this is insufficient and that Israel must take similar steps. He emphasized that never before has there been such a wide-scale international agreement not only in favor of a political solution but also in the method of arriving at one.

He noted in this respect the international community's support for convening an international conference on the Middle East. He pointed out that only Israel opposes such a conference. He went on to say that we can see no reasons why the parties to a future Arab-Israeli settlement cannot conduct reciprocal inspection and field control, and to carry out inspections when in doubt after giving a short-term warning notice. Shevardnadze said that such measures can remove doubts that currently keep the situation tense.

Shevardnadze added that the options for solving the Middle East problem are summed up in the alternative between the continuation of the present situation and the search for a compromise solution acceptable to everyone. But, he stressed, the continuation of the present situation is impossible and there is no alternative to reconciliation and settlement.

He said that Israel's continuous usurpation of the Arab territories occupied since 1967 will definitely lead to its isolation in the international community and to its loss of support from its most loyal friends. Shevardnadze maintained that when the PLO proclaimed its state, recognized Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338, and condemned terrorism, Israel was left without even a shadow of an excuse to reject the dialogue with the PLO, which is recognized by the international community as the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian people.

The Soviet foreign minister proposed holding consultations to convene an international conference through the reputable multi-channel flexible means and media [min khilal al-ashkal al-marinah and al-ajhizah dhat al-qanawat al-'adidah al-mashhud laha] through the unofficial debates at the Security Council and the unofficial consultations among the five permanent members, as well as through the bilateral and multisided dialogue among the participants in the settlement.

The Soviet foreign minister stressed the need for starting the process of peace negotiations without defining in advance the forms which the process might acquire during the conference, and also without linking the various elements of possible agreements in a way different from those agreed upon by the sides to the negotiations.

Shevardnadze affirmed that it would be useful at the present time to establish a post of an envoy of the UN secretary general in charge of the Middle East. This envoy should be highly respected internationally, and could take part in preparing the international conference in its initial stages.

He said: We had an initial exchange of views with the permanent representatives at the Security Council. Our understanding is that they are willing in principle to help convene an international conference, participate in its preparation, and ensure the components for its success. He pointed to the efforts being made by the United Nations in general to solving international disputes.

Shevardnadze noted that his talks with Israeli Foreign Minister Moshe Arens yesterday were extremely useful. He added that an exchange of views, even if conflicting, help to form a sound concept of the real situation. He emphasized the two sides' agreement to continue contacts in a bid to search for the means to a settlement. He added: My understanding from my talks with Arens is that the idea of an international conference has not yet gained the support of the Israelis. But we believe that the conference will give a chance for a historic compromise solution between the Arabs and Israelis.

The Soviet foreign minister added: Israel must realize that its choice in favor of an international conference and its agreement to enter into a dialogue with the PLO will enable both our countries to take a step forward along the path of restoring complete diplomatic relations. He pointed out that the start of the conference will constitute the beginning of the countdown to the restoration of these relations.

Shevardnadze expressed his country's support in particular for the idea of holding a meeting of senior delegates from Egypt, Jordan, the PLO, and Lebanon to expedite the convening of an international conference.

The Soviet official said: We read and heard that we came with a new Soviet plan for a settlement in the Middle East, but the matter is somewhat different. We came here with a desire to prepare a plan with the participation of all parties concerned in the region. He stressed that such a plan is being crystallized and is assuming a concrete form.

Shevardnadze pointed out in this regard to the forthcoming visits by Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev to Cuba, Britain, China, France, and the FRG, saying that there will be an active political discussion of the issue of a settlement in the Middle East during these visits. He added: We will discuss this issue at the beginning of March with Spanish Foreign Minister Fernandez Ordonez in his capacity as the EC chairman and with U.S. Secretary of State James Baker.

Shevardnadze emphasized that the Soviet plan is based on the Soviet leadership's political priority, which Gorbachev expressed in his speech at the 42d session of the

UN General Assembly, when he called for a joint, unique achievement by states and governments in finding a solution to international and regional issues.

Concluding the statement, Shevardnadze emphasized that Egyptian-Soviet relations have been completely normalized and set along the right course as a result of joint efforts. He pointed out that during his visit to Cairo, he conveyed a personal message from Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev to President Husni Mubarak, inviting him to visit the Soviet Union. He expressed his country's desire to cooperate with Egypt in the field of diverting international relations from the road of confrontation to that of dialogue and cooperation. He said: Egypt is a great country with influence in the contemporary world. It contributes much to the search for solutions to the world issues—disarmament, environmental protection, and the consolidation of humanity and democracy.

The Soviet foreign minister said: We have reached an understanding in this regard with Dr 'Ismat 'Abd al-Majid, the deputy prime minister and foreign minister.

Prior to Shevardnadze's reading of his statement, Dr 'Ismat 'Abd al-Majid delivered a speech welcoming the Soviet minister and the delegation accompanying him.

Dr 'Abd al-Majid referred to the meetings which Shevardnadze held in Cairo, including those held with President Husni Mubarak, PLO Chairman Yasir 'Arafat, and Israeli foreign Minister Moshe Arens.

In his speech, Dr 'Abd al-Majid emphasized the Soviet Union's important role with regard to the Middle East issue.

Egyptian party leaders, a number of public figures, and press and media officials were present during the reading of the statement.

Gives News Conference

NC2302134789 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1231 GMT
23 Feb 89

[Text] Cairo, 23 Feb (MENA)—Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze has emphasized that the Palestinians should participate in any settlement of the Middle East problem. He said: We should eliminate all attempts to exclude the Palestinians, or Israel, from the settlement.

At a news conference held in Cairo today at conclusion of his visit to Egypt, Shevardnadze said: When we stress the need for joint efforts to prepare for an international conference, we mean just that, without ignoring either Israel or the Palestinians. He stressed that security guarantees for Israel and the Arab states, including the Palestinian people, must be an international concern, pointing out that the consideration of these security guarantees can only take place within the framework of an international peace conference discussions.

Shevardnadze criticized U.S. President George Bush's statements, in which he called for limiting the Soviet Union's role in the Middle East. The Soviet minister described this statement as unacceptable, and added that the Soviet Union has a role to play in the Middle East and that the United States cannot limit it. He said that the United States is not capable of resolving the Middle East issue alone, otherwise it would have done so and we would have welcomed that.

He said that the problem can only be solved through the collective efforts of the United Nations and the permanent members of the UN Security Council. It is worth noting that Bush had earlier said that he was not concerned about Shevardnadze's tour of the Middle East adding, in a later statement, that the Soviet role in the Middle East should be limited.

Shevardnadze was asked whether there was a rivalry between the two superpowers in the Middle East. He replied that rivalry has always been there. Though the United States and the Soviet Union had no rivalry in Afghanistan, we reached an agreement there, he said. [sentence as received]

The Soviet minister stated that his country is undertaking a certain initiative to free the Middle East from nuclear, chemical, and conventional weapons.

Regarding the UN Security Council's efforts to convene an international peace conference, the Soviet foreign minister said that his country has proposed that the Security Council hold a meeting at the foreign minister level for this purpose. He explained that the idea did not win the approval of all. He added that he proposed the formation of a consultative committee in the Security Council to prepare for such a conference. But, he said, it is possible to dispense with such a committee and make the preparations through bilateral consultations.

Shevardnadze pointed out that Israeli Foreign Minister Moshe Arens did not agree to the preparatory committee proposal. However, he said, it is necessary to continue the dialogue among all the parties while taking into consideration the security guarantees for all the parties to the conflict.

Shevardnadze affirmed that the Soviet Union fully supports the Palestinian people's right to self-determination and to deciding the form of state they want, whether independent or a confederation with Jordan or Israel.

At the news press conference which he held at the NDP headquarters after delivering his statement, Shevardnadze said his country welcomes the establishment of the Arab Cooperation Council. He stated that such groupings are important for integration, such as that which is in progress in Europe. He also expressed optimism about the possibility of achieving peace in the Middle East.

Regarding Soviet-Syrian relations, Shevardnadze said that there is no tension in these relations and that his talks with Syrian leaders were held in an atmosphere of complete understanding.

Dr 'Ismat 'Abd al-Majid made a speech welcoming Shevardnadze's statement and stressing that it reflects the Soviet Union's deep interest in the Middle East. He added that, as the statement itself says, it shows that this is an opportunity for an historic compromise that must be grasped.

Concludes Visit, Departs

NC2302142289 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1419 GMT
23 Feb 89

[Excerpt] Cairo, 23 Feb (MENA)—Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze left Cairo for Baghdad this afternoon following a 4-day visit, during which he was received by President Husni Mubarak.

During the visit, the Soviet minister met with Egyptian officials, as well as with Palestinian leader Yasir 'Arafat and Israeli Foreign Minister Moshe Arens. [passage omitted]

In a predeparture statement at Cairo Airport, Shevardnadze said that he had held "successful, useful, fruitful, and extremely important" talks during his visit to Cairo. He expressed his profound gratitude to the entire Egyptian people, President Husni Mubarak, and Dr 'Ismat 'Abd al-Majid for the cordiality and hospitality he had enjoyed during his stay in Cairo.

Asked about the Soviet role in the Middle East, Shevardnadze said: We are all trying to benefit from this stage of the talks. He noted that he had discussed a number of issues while he was in Cairo.

Replying to another question on whether it will be possible for direct or indirect talks to take place between Israel and the PLO, Shevardnadze stated: I cannot talk about this now, but it is possible that this may happen in the future.

Asked about his impressions of the reaction to the Soviet role in the Middle East, Shevardnadze said that everyone is trying to benefit from this stage of talks and that a number of issues were discussed while he was in Cairo. [repetitive sentence as received]

The Soviet guest was seen off by Dr 'Ismat 'Abd al-Majid, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, and Soviet ambassador in Cairo Gennadiy Zhuravlev.

The Soviet ambassador said that the Soviet foreign minister's visit to Cairo was a very successful one. He added that Shevardnadze held exhaustive and constructive talks that constituted "a new stage" in the growth of friendly relations between the two countries and laid

down new principles for boosting these relations. He expressed satisfaction with Shevardnadze's visit to Egypt during his current tour of the region, which also took him to Syria and Jordan.

PLO's 'Arafat Continues Visit to Cairo

Holds News Conference

NC2302172689 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1346 GMT
23 Feb 89

[Text] Cairo, 23 Feb (MENA)—Palestinian leader Yasir 'Arafat has asserted that the U.S.-Palestinian dialogue is continuing and that the Palestinian side is constantly presenting its views to the United States.

'Arafat stated that the new U.S. Administration is in the course of drawing up its policy on the Middle East, and added that he hoped this would be completed as soon as possible so that practical steps can be taken to hold the international peace conference.

At a news conference held this afternoon, 'Arafat pointed out that all parties concerned, with the exception of some members in the Israeli Government and Israel's political hardliners, have agreed to hold the international conference.

The Palestinian leader reiterated that the PLO is willing to negotiate with Israel, either directly or indirectly, before the international peace conference. However, he stressed that such negotiations must be supervised by the United Nations or the five permanent members of the UN Security Council.

'Arafat said that the PLO has always believed that Europe can play a vital and significant role in the Middle East, adding that he recently held important talks with the EEC three-member committee. He stated that Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze had underlined the importance of the European role in solving the problem, as well as a Chinese presence at the international conference.

'Arafat pointed out that there are indirect negotiations between the PLO and Israel and explained that Shevardnadze met with the Israeli delegation in the morning and with the Palestinian delegation in the evening, in the same room.

'Arafat added that Shevardnadze briefed him on the Israeli requests and said that he will convey our response and point of view to the Israelis, so that a real and just peace can be established in the region.

The Palestinian leader refrained from replying to a question on the topics which he had discussed with Shevardnadze.

Touching on the Israeli stand on the peace process, 'Arafat said there are changes and this is very important. He continued: We are aware that it is not easy for the Israelis to change completely, or to change their views. In this regard, 'Arafat pointed to the length of time the Israelis had taken to withdraw from Sinai.

Palestinian leader Yasir 'Arafat called for stopping the crimes which the Israeli occupation troops are committing against Palestinians in the occupied territories, just because they reject occupation. He said: I have given strict orders to citizens in the occupied territories to refrain from using weapons in the intifadah [uprising].

'Arafat expressed his pleasure that during the 15 months since the outbreak of the intifadah, only two incidents had occurred, one in Bethlehem and the other in Gaza. He asserted that the intifadah will not stop, asking: Why Do I have to stop the intifadah? For Shamir's sake?

He pointed out that the situation is very dramatic and sensitive because of the continued crimes of the Israeli occupation troops who persist in their crimes and repressive measures to destroy the infrastructure of the national economy in the occupied Palestinian territories. He said further: You know that we pay 38 different types of taxes to the occupation authorities, and a Palestinian has to pay 60 Jordanian dinars, which is equivalent to \$100, just to cross the Jordan River.

Commenting on the remarks made by Abu Iyad [Salah Khalaf] on changing the Palestinian national charter, the Palestinian leader said: When the independent Palestinian state is established, we will agree on everything. He asked: Do you expect the new government to apply an old charter? Of course there will be a new charter for the Palestinian state.

'Arafat refused to reply to a question on USSR-Israeli relations, saying: I prefer to leave this matter to the Soviets. However, he pointed out that the Soviets are still committed to their solidarity with and support for the Palestinian people which they declared during his talks in Moscow with Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev last April. He added: We are satisfied with the Soviet stand and their strong support for the just cause of the Palestinians.

'Arafat denied that the Soviets had asked him to stop the intifadah before the international conference, saying that the Soviets did not raise the issue at all and that they admire this national steadfastness against the unjust Israeli occupation.

Further on News Conference

NC2302154789 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic
1500 GMT 23 Feb 89

[Text] PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat, who is visiting Cairo, held a press conference today. He said that the announcement by the U.S.

Administration that the dialogue with the PLO will continue is regarded as a positive stand. He added that consultations between the PLO and the U.S. Administration are continuing on a number of issues, and that the two parties are exchanging views.

'Arafat added that the new U.S. Administration is in the process of determining its policy on the Middle East. He expressed the hope that this will be completed as soon as possible, so that steps to hold an international conference can be taken.

'Arafat said he regards his talks with Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze in Cairo yesterday as indirect negotiations between the PLO and Israel. Talks were held with the Israeli foreign minister in the morning and, in the same place, with the PLO leader in the evening, he stated.

'Arafat said that the Soviet foreign minister briefed him on the Israeli point of view, and that he will convey the PLO's views to Israel.

Meets With Israeli Journalists

NC2302141789 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1353 GMT
23 Feb 89

[Text] Cairo, 23 Feb (MENA)—PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat has stated that the PLO's decision to work for peace is a strategic and not a tactical one. 'Arafat affirmed that there is now a historic opportunity to achieve peace in the area, and called on the Israelis to respond to the Palestinian peace initiative, warning against wasting this historic opportunity.

This came during a news conference which 'Arafat held this afternoon with 15 Israeli journalists at their request. The news conference was also attended by a number of Egyptian and foreign journalists.

The Palestinian leader reaffirmed his readiness to accept a tripartite state consisting of Jordan, Palestine, and Israel. 'Arafat noted that the establishment of Israel is based on Resolution 181, which was issued by the United Nations in 1947. Since Israel accepted this resolution, it must implement the first article of the said resolution which calls for the establishment of a Palestinian state on the Palestinian territory side-by-side with Israel, which was born on the basis of the second article of the resolution.

Palestinian leader Yasir 'Arafat said that there is now a historic opportunity for peace, a peace which must be just in order to be permanent. I stated this at the United Nations and affirmed that peace is a strategic line. From here I address my appeal for peace to every Israeli. Otherwise, this historic opportunity will be lost.

'Arafat added: In the Algiers PNC resolutions, we approved the existence of two states. Furthermore, UN Resolution 181 declares the establishment of a Palestinian state and a Jewish state.

'Arafat expressed his readiness to meet Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir, saying: I announced this from the UN rostrum in Geneva. But I have not received a response from the Israeli Government.

Addressing the Israeli journalists, the Palestinian leader said: Don't forget that Sharon has decided to assassinate me, just as they assassinated Khalil al-Wazir (Abu Jihad). The Israeli Government has made a decision and issued instructions to the Mosad, which we are aware of, to murder me and the Palestinian leaders.

Answering a question, 'Arafat said that the Israeli leaders accepted Resolution 181. This means that they agreed to live with others. Now I say to them: In 1978 you rejected our declared acceptance of the establishment of a democratic state that will embrace everyone. I renew my call for a trilateral Jordanian, Palestinian, and Israeli state.

The PLO chairman added: When I say a Palestinian state, I mean the territory which was occupied in 1967. This was endorsed by the Fes summit resolutions and the Algiers PNC resolutions.

Asked when the intifadah [uprising] in the occupied territories will end, the Palestinian leader stated: When the Israeli occupation ends and the Palestinian people gain their legitimate rights in full.

'Arafat said that Israel demanded, through mediators in Jordan, the United States, and Egypt, that the PLO accept Resolution 242, which would mean that Israel would give up the occupied lands—and now they are rejecting this. He affirmed that Israel cannot dominate Palestine by force; it may be able to do so for a short time, but not forever. As an illustration of the impossibility of dominating people by force forever, 'Arafat cited the British Empire, the French occupation of Vietnam, and the U.S. occupation of Vietnam. He also noted the Soviet withdrawal from Afghanistan.

Answering a question about the Palestinians' right to return, 'Arafat said that this will be discussed in the negotiations. He explained that Resolution 181 provides for the right of return or compensation.

Answering a question about his evaluation of his meeting with the Israeli journalists, 'Arafat expressed the hope that this meeting will help each side to understand the views of the other. He noted in this regard that he visited Tel Aviv for 3 days in 1968.

At the beginning of the news conference, while greeting the Palestinian leader, Ben-Natan, an Israeli national and an advocate of peace in Israel, said: We thank

'Arafat for agreeing to meet with these journalists. He said that they represented most of the Israeli newspapers, and they came to hear what 'Arafat had to say to the Israeli people and others.

Asked To Aid 5 Israelis

NC2302191889 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1815 GMT
23 Feb 89

[Text] Cairo, 23 Feb (MENA)—Israeli peace advocate Ben-Natan has asked Palestinian leader Yasir 'Arafat, the PLO Executive chairman, to intervene and work for the release of five Israeli military personnel detained by some organizations in Lebanon.

Ben-Natan said: I know that they are not prisoners of 'Arafat, but I am asking for his intervention to secure their release. 'Arafat replied that this issue will be discussed in a private meeting and not in the news conference.

Ben-Natan's request came during the news conference that 'Arafat held this afternoon with Israeli journalists at his place of residence in Al-Andulus Palace.

Concludes Visit, Leaves 23 Feb

NC2402060289 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0036 GMT
24 Feb 89

[Excerpt] Cairo, 23 Feb (MENA)—PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat left Cairo tonight at the conclusion of a 2-day visit to Egypt. [passage omitted]

Libya

Court Urges Lifting U.S. Freeze on Funds

LD2302160989 Tripoli Domestic Service in Arabic
1330 GMT 23 Feb 89

[Text] The Queen's Bench division of the High Court of Justice in London on Tuesday pronounced a judgment calling for lifting the decision to freeze the balances of the external Libyan Arab Bank deposited at U.S. banks in London; taken by the former U.S. Administration. This is after the external Libyan Arab Bank filed a case against the U.S. Bank Manufacture [words indistinct] Trust.

The court ordered the U.S. bank to return the frozen funds which amount to \$70 million dollars in addition to the interest and all the costs of the case. It also condemned the decision of the former U.S. Administration which is considered economic piracy and a blatant violation of international monetary laws and codes of practice.

The sources of the external Libyan Arab Bank said that the bank previously obtained a similar judgment by the same court against another U.S. bank (?Bankers Trust) under which frozen funds amounting to \$327 million dollars were paid back.

Al-Qadhafi Speaks With Envoys on Maghreb Union
LD2302103289 Tripoli Television Service in Arabic
2000 GMT 22 Feb 89

[Text] The brother leader of the revolution today received the ambassadors of Chad, Niger, and Mali to the Great Jamahiriya.

He requested them to inform their governments of the provisions of the agreement of the Arab Maghreb Union that permit the neighboring African states to join the union and that permit any individual state of the union to unite with any African state. He emphasized the need to build distinguished relations with these states, which complement the Arab Maghreb Union.

The brother leader of the revolution also called upon these states to join this union on the basis of a non-ethnic integration and a comprehensive unity which comprise the states bordering the Sahara, in accordance with a jamahiri ideology and irrespective of race, religion and color.

USSR Lauds Al-Qadhafi's Afghan Peace Moves
LD1802120989 Tripoli JANA in English 1443 GMT
17 Feb 89

[Text] Tripoli, Al-Nawwar [February] 17, JAMAHIRIYAH NEWS AGENCY—Mr P.S. Akopov, the ambassador of the USSR in Great Al-Jamahiriya has lauded the efforts of the Libyan Arab people and the leader of its revolution to achieve peace in Afghanistan.

At a press conference held yesterday morning, Mr Akopov in the presence of Afghanistan ambassador in Tripoli, Mr Mohammed Esma'il, and a number of Arab and foreign pressmen, speaking on the occasion of the withdrawal of Soviet troops from Afghanistan, has pointed out that Great Al-Jamahiriya has supported the peaceful settlement in Afghanistan and has effectively contributed in reaching a solution on achieving peace in Afghanistan.

The Soviet ambassador has asserted that the withdrawal of the last Soviet soldier from Afghanistan comes in commitment to the Geneva agreements on Afghanistan adding that the USSR not only calls upon others to talk, but it will participate with whosoever wants to conduct a dialogue with it.

He has stressed that individual solutions will not succeed. But, he adds, should any just representation fail to be reached, it will be useful to go back to that proposal of President Gorbachev calling for organizing an international conference for settlement in Afghanistan.

Meanwhile, the ambassador of Afghanistan, Mr Esma'il, has lauded the efforts of the leader of the revolution aiming at unifying the Arab nation and achieve peace in Africa.

The ambassador in Great al-Jamahiriya has denounced the imperialist hostile provocations against the people of Great al-Jamahiriya aiming at obstructing the pioneering role assumed by the Libyan Arab people vis-a-vis the question of freedom and achieving progress and strength.

He has stressed that Afghanistan stands strongly alongside the people's revolution led by the generation of anger in occupied Palestine through its people's commitments against the Zionist enemy. It supports the establishment of a Palestinian state on the soil of Arab Palestine.

The Afghani ambassador, speaking on Geneva agreements, says they are the result of joint action of the USSR and Afghanistan. He adds that Afghanistan has respected these agreements shouldering fully its responsibility. The withdrawal of Soviet troops from Afghanistan has been completed before the date specified for this withdrawal on 15 instant.

He concludes his comments by stressing that war will not solve any question. Therefore, he adds, we have put forward the idea of holding negotiations with the opposition.

Sudan

Government Responds to 'Strong' Army Memorandum

Al-Mahdi Calls Cabinet Meeting
LD2302135389 Kuwait KUNA in English 1145 GMT
23 Feb 89

[Excerpt] Khartoum, Feb 23 (KUNA)—Sudan's Prime Minister al-Sadiq al-Mahdi has called for an extraordinary meeting of the cabinet Thursday morning to consider the situation in light of the strong memorandum the Army raised demanding a Government of National Salvation to end the war in the south and pursue a balanced foreign policy.

After the ministers meeting Al-Mahdi has scheduled a meeting with the political parties leaders at noon before meeting with the press to brief them on the outcome of his deliberations.

Al-Mahdi called for the government meeting this morning following a confrontation he had yesterday morning with the top five Army officers on the memo which he reportedly refused to accept except for the parts on reinforcing the Armed Forces to meet its military obligations.

In his meeting with the Army Commander-in-Chief General al-Fatih Ahmed Ali, the chief of staff and his three deputies, the prime minister is reported to have rejected the political demands contained in the memo.

A brief statement issued by the official spokesman of the Armed Forces said the prime minister, after his meeting with the Army leadership, promised to publish the full text of the Army memo and the government reply to it.

Immediately after the prime minister left, the Army chief and the top Army officers who signed the memo last Monday went into a meeting which continued until sunset apparently ending inconclusively. They are expected to resume sitting today. [passage omitted]

State Council Responds to Memo

EA2302211089 Khartoum SUNA in English 1630 GMT 23 Feb 89

[Text] Khartoum, 23 Feb (SUNA)—The Council of the State has answered all the points made in the Army memo and the Army's response was positive, member of the Council of the State, Mirghani al-Nasri said. Al-Nasri, following a meeting today with the senior officers of the Armed Forces General Command, said the contents of the memo were discussed clearly and frankly and positive points were reached. He said he asked the officers to provide him with a list containing the Army needs for equipment.

On the other hand, chairman of the Council of the State, Ahmed al-Mirghani, today held a closed-door meeting with the Armed Forces General Commander Fathi Ahmad Ali. No details were disclosed about the meeting.

Al-Mahdi Promises Statement

EA2302210889 Omdurman Domestic Service in Arabic 1930 GMT 23 Feb 89

[Text] The chairman and members of the State Council had a meeting with Prime Minister al-Sadiq al-Mahdi, at the Republican Council at noon today.

Mr al-Sadiq al-Mahdi said in a statement following the meeting that he discussed with the chairman and members of the State Council the memorandum submitted by the Armed Forces to the Council of Ministers.

He said he had told the State Council he would issue a statement today on the matter. He added that he had briefed the council on the results of his meeting with the Armed Forces commanders yesterday. The prime minister said the political reply to the memorandum comprises the stand of the Council of Ministers. He said the details would be made known to the public one by one.

'Intensive Meetings' Take Place

NC2302200889 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1900 GMT 23 Feb 89

[Text] Khartoum, 23 Feb (MENA)—Continuous and intensive meetings have been taking place in the Sudanese capital Khartoum since this morning. Attending the meetings are Ahmad al-Mirghani, head of the State Council; Prime Minister al-Sadiq al-Mahdi; Lieutenant General Fathi Ahmad 'Ali, commander in chief of the Armed Forces; and the Armed Forces commanders. The purpose of the meetings is to contain the crisis created by the memorandum that a number of senior commanders

in the Sudanese Armed Forces sent to Al-Sadiq al-Mahdi. The memorandum contained several demands regarding resolving the problems facing the country.

The meetings began with a 5-hour extraordinary cabinet meeting this morning chaired by Prime Minister Al-Sadiq al-Mahdi. Afterward, Al-Mahdi held a meeting with the Sudanese political party leaders, and he then met with the chief editors of the Sudanese newspapers to review the current situation and the contents of the Armed Forces' memorandum, as well as to discuss ways to deal with the situation.

Later, Sudanese State Council Chairman Ahmad al-Mirghani and members of the Council held a meeting with Al-Sadiq al-Mahdi at the Presidential Palace in Khartoum. Al-Mahdi said after the meeting that the conferees had discussed the memorandum which the Armed Forces submitted to the State Council. He also stated that he had informed the Council that the government will release a statement in this respect. He noted that the official response to this memorandum should come from the State Council while the political response to it will come from the Council of Ministers' stand and reaction.

He announced that the chairman of the State Council, in his capacity as the supreme commander of the Armed Forces, will meet with the Armed Forces commanders to reply to the military commanders' memorandum. Al-Mahdi said that he had briefed the State Council on his meetings with the Armed Forces' commanders.

Meanwhile, Sudanese State Council Chairman Ahmad al-Mirghani held a closed meeting today with Lieutenant General Fathi Ahmad 'Ali, commander in chief of the Sudanese Armed Forces.

In another development, Sudanese State Council members Al-Mirghani al-Nasri and Pasifico Lado Lolik met today with the Sudanese Armed Forces General Command Staff in the presence of Lieutenant General Fathi Ahmad 'Ali, Chief of Staff Lieutenant General Mahdi Babu Nimr, and Lieutenant General 'Abd al-Rahman Sa'id, deputy chief of staff for operations. After the meeting, Al-Mirghani al-Nasri disclosed that a reply to the Armed Forces' memorandum was made during the meeting and noted that the stand of the Armed Forces' General Command had been positive and that important results had been achieved.

He added that the State Council had shown an understanding concerning the memorandum and had asked the Command Staff to furnish it with adequate information with a view to procuring the Armed Forces' requirements so as to enhance their potential to face the situation in all areas, as well as in the operational areas in southern Sudan.

Spokesman Discusses Meeting

NC2302205089 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2010 GMT
23 Feb 89

[Text] Khartoum, 23 Feb (MENA)—Dr Bashir 'Umar, Sudan's minister of culture and information and the official spokesman of the Sudanese Government, said following today's extraordinary cabinet meeting that Prime Minister al-Sadiq al-Mahdi briefed his cabinet on the current situation, his observations on the deteriorating situation in the south, his meetings, and the meeting of the Armed Forces commanders from which the Armed Forces' memorandum stemmed. Al-Mahdi also briefed the cabinet on his meeting with the Armed Forces commanders and on his reply to their memorandum.

Dr Bashir 'Umar said that Acting Defense Minister Salah 'Abd al-Salam read the texts of the Armed Forces memorandum and Al-Sadiq al-Mahdi's reply to it to the cabinet. He added that the cabinet deliberated on the matter and decided that more information is needed before any final decisions on the memorandum can be made. He said that the Sudanese Cabinet is scheduled to hold another session on Saturday [25 February].

The official government spokesman said that the Sudanese Armed Forces' commanders have stressed that the 1-week period they have set for a reply to their memorandum is not a final one and they have denied carrying out any attempt to wreck democracy, stressing that this is out of the question.

The information minister also said that the ministerial committee charged with implementing the cabinet decisions on security and defense met today and discussed the Armed Forces' need for factories to make shoes, clothes, and food and was decided to remove the trade and customs obstacles facing these factories.

Meanwhile, Al-Sadiq al-Mahdi met with leaders of the political parties today. Ibrahim Nuqud, Sudan's Communist Party secretary general, said after the meeting that the prime minister presented clarifications on the Armed Forces' memorandum and outlined his answer to it. He added that Al-Sadiq al-Mahdi has obtained assurances from the Armed Forces commanders that the 1-week period is not a final ultimatum.

Regarding the timing of the defense minister's resignation and the Armed Forces memorandum, Ibrahim Nuqud said that Al-Sadiq al-Mahdi explained at the meeting that the resignation was submitted days before the memorandum and that there is no connection between the two. He added that another meeting will be held with the parties' leaders on Sunday to continue discussion of this issue.

Prime Minister Replies to Memo

NC2402050689 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2245 GMT
23 Feb 89

[Text] Khartoum, 23 Feb (MENA)—Sudanese Prime Minister al-Sadiq al-Mahdi's reply to the memorandum presented to the cabinet by the Sudanese Armed Forces was announced here tonight.

The reply noted that the memorandum consisted of a number of indisputable facts, including commitment to constitutional legitimacy, preservation of the democratic system chosen by the Sudanese people, protection of the national soil's unity, and rejection of all forms of dictatorship.

In his reply which was read by Dr Bashir 'Umar, minister of culture and information and the official government spokesman, Al-Sadiq al-Mahdi said that the domestic front in Sudan is not united, and thus its positive participation in supporting the Armed Forces materially and morally is weakened. The Armed Forces also lack fundamental components while the rebels in the south are enjoying huge foreign support.

In his reply, Al-Sadiq al-Mahdi explained the serious steps taken by the government within the official and popular contexts, including the opening of the dialogue on the intellectual, executive, and procedural issues for holding the constitutional conference and for halting the war in southern Sudan.

The Sudanese prime minister expressed his belief in the need for the Armed Forces to take a number of principles into account, including constitutional commitment, military discipline, and expansion of the base of participation in ruling, as being the best within the framework of constitutional legitimacy. He added that the defense of the homeland and the protection of its territories and sanctities are the Armed Forces' primary duty. He also stressed the need for the military command to study and assess military performance, to move toward a just peace while taking into account the balances in foreign policy without bias, to denounce plotting, and to deal with the homeland's problems truthfully and objectively.

Dr Bashir 'Umar said that the cabinet approved the offer made by the prime minister, stressing the government's responsibility for challenging every plot or foreign aggression that infringes on Sudan's sovereignty, unity, and right to determine its own domestic and foreign policy in order to protect its interests and territories.

Military Spokesman on Unity of Armed Forces

NC2302185189 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1800 GMT
23 Feb 89

[Text] Khartoum, 23 Feb (MENA)—The Sudanese Armed Forces spokesman has asserted the Armed Forces' cohesion and unity on current issues in the Sudanese arena. In a press statement today, he denied a Sudanese newspaper

report today that at a meeting of Lieutenant General Fathi Ahmad 'Ali, commander in chief of the Sudanese Armed Forces, with army commanders and officers there had been difference of opinion among the officers on the current issues in Sudan. The Sudanese military source said that all those present at this meeting had exchanged views and reached unanimous conclusions. He remarked that the Sudanese Armed Forces have never been as united as they are today.

The Sydanese Armed Forces spokesman emphasized that any attempt to cause a split within the Armed Forces is doomed to failure. He explained that the Armed Forces had acted out of their concern for the national interest and their historic responsibility for the defense of the homeland and its security, as well as for the defense of the accomplishments of the Sudanese people, according to the provisions of the constitution.

It is noteworthy that several top Sudanese military commanders sent a memorandum to Prime Minister al-Sadiq al-Mahdi, urging him to swiftly form a national salvation government and decide on the question of peace in southern Sudan.

Committee Seeks Support for Armed Forces
EA2302205089 Khartoum National Unity Radio in Arabic 1500 GMT 23 Feb 89

[Excerpt] Mr Mirghani al-Nasri, member of the State Council and chairman of the Higher National Committee for General Mobilization, chaired a meeting of the committee's general secretariat at the Republican Palace at noon today. The meeting considered a program of support for the Armed Forces. It spoke of the need to support the Armed Forces by channeling foreign aid and assistance from fraternal and friendly states.

The meeting also called for continued material support for the Armed Forces in the form of financial and material contributions, as well as popular moral support and the unification of the internal front. This should be provided by the media, which should concentrate on urgent needs. The program also called for diplomatic support for the Armed Forces by giving the issue of the south priority in the work of diplomatic missions.

The program also states that support for the Armed Forces should be part of the campaign for peace, that the peace issue should be put to the people and a national strategy for peace drawn up. [passage omitted]

Al-Mahdi Cancels Trip to Hirohito Funeral
EA2202124189 Omdurman Domestic Service in Arabic 1930 GMT 21 Feb 89

[Excerpt] Mr Idris al-Banna, deputy chairman of the State Council, left Khartoum at noon for Tokyo where he will head a Sudanese delegation which will present condolences and participate in the funeral of Japan's late emperor.

An authoritative source at the General Secretariat of the Council of Ministers said that the delegation was originally to have been led by Mr al-Sadiq al-Mahdi, but the plans were changed so that the prime minister can follow political and security developments in the country in accordance with the strategy drawn up by the Council of Ministers. [passage indistinct]

'Christian Citizen' Caught With 'Satanic Verses'
EA2302204689 Khartoum SUNA in English 1635 GMT 23 Feb 89

[Text] Khartoum, 23 Feb (SUNA)—Legal measures will be taken against a Christian citizen for possession of two copies of the controversial book of "Satanic Verses" of the British writer Salman Rushdie, the Arabic daily AL-RAYAH, mouthpiece of the National Islamic Front, reported today.

The paper said the citizen, who has not been named yet, was spotted carrying the two copies last night by Khartoum-Airport customs authorities [words indistinct] from London on board a German plane.

The book was banned by all the Islamic institutions and its author was judged as apostate by the Mecca-based "fiqh" [Islamic jurisprudence] group of the Islamic World Association.

Algeria

Polisario Front Threatens Resumption of Violence
LD1902104389 Algiers Domestic Service in Arabic 0630 GMT 19 Feb 89

[Text] The Polisario Front threatened yesterday to resume battles in the Western Sahara if the dialogue with Morocco which started at the beginning of this year—on 4 January to be precise—does not resume before the end of this month.

Mr Bechir Mustapha Sayyed, number two in the Polisario Front, said in a news conference he held yesterday in Rome that the dialogue between the Moroccans and the Saharans began without any condition and must resume on the same basis.

Bechir Mustapha Sayyed said the Polisario Front announced a unilateral truce during February to enable the continuation of dialogue and to make the Maghreb summit in Marrakech successful.

Mr Bechir Mustapha believed that the suspension of the decisive meeting which was scheduled to be held on the sidelines of the Marrakech summit leaves doubt and pessimism looming over prospects for peace in the Western Sahara.

Bahrain

British Trade Minister Arrives With Delegation
*JN2002090689 Manama WAKH in Arabic 0810 GMT
20 Feb 89*

[Text] Manama, 20 Feb (WAKH)—Alan Clark, British minister of trade and industry, and his delegation arrived in Manama this morning on a 2-day visit to Bahrain. The British minister will hold talks with Bahraini Commerce and Agriculture Minister Habib Ahmad al-Qasim on ways to strengthen trade and economic relations between Bahrain and the United Kingdom. The British minister was received by the Bahraini commerce and agriculture minister and John Alan Shepherd, the British ambassador in Manama.

The British minister is scheduled to pay a similar visit to Oman following his visit to Bahrain.

Confers With Amir

*JN2002105589 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1026 GMT
20 Feb 89*

[Text] Manama, 20 Feb (WAKH)—His Highness Shaykh 'Isa ibn Salman Al Khalifah, amir of Bahrain, received Alan Clark, British minister of trade and industry, who is on a visit to Bahrain. The meeting was attended by Prime Minister Shaykh Khalifah ibn Salman Al Khalifah, Foreign Minister Shaykh Muhammad ibn Mubarak Al Khalifah, Interior Minister Shaykh Muhammad ibn Khalifah Al Khalifah, Commerce and Agriculture Minister Habib al-Qasim, and British Ambassador to Bahrain John Alan Shepherd. They reviewed trade relations between Bahrain and Britain in light of the stable situation in the Arabian Gulf after the cessation of the Iraq-Iran war. The British minister affirmed that his country is looking forward to increasing trade and economic cooperation with the state of Bahrain.

Meets With Commerce Minister

*JN2002173489 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1455 GMT
20 Feb 89*

[Text] Manama, 20 Feb (WAKH)—Habib Ahmad al-Qasim, Bahraini minister of commerce and agriculture, met in Manama today with Alan Clark, UK minister of state at the Department of Trade and Industry.

Following the meeting, the Bahraini commerce minister said he reviewed with the British minister of state the overall trade and economic relations between the two countries. He pointed out that Britain is Bahrain's main trading partner for importing commodities and that the trade balance is the basic factor in these relations. He added that he discussed with the guest minister of state the possibility of permitting the export of Bahraini aluminum, petrochemicals, and oil products to British markets, a part of the EEC. They also touched on the possibility of the British Government providing technical aid to the ministry in the trade field, particularly

experience in the area of insurance, the stock market, specifications and standardization, and agriculture, in addition to technical aid in the field of fishing wealth.

The Bahraini commerce minister described the meeting with his British counterpart as successful and fruitful. They discussed matters pertaining to commercial agencies between the two countries as well as trade and economic relations between the GCC states and the EEC.

Departs 21 Feb

*JN2202113389 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1000 GMT
22 Feb 89*

[Text] Manama, 22 Feb (WAKH)—Alan Clark, UK minister of state at the Ministry of Trade and Industry, left Manama last night following a 2-day visit to Bahrain.

During the visit, the British minister held talks with senior Bahraini officials on bilateral relations of cooperation in economic, trade, and other fields.

Kuwait

Government Denies Resumption of Flights to Iran
*LD1902151588 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 1355 GMT
19 Feb 89*

[Text] Kuwait, 19 February (KUNA)—Kuwait has categorically refuted Iranian reports saying that Kuwait and Iran are discussing the resumption of air flights between them.

The Director of the General Directorate of Civil Aviation, Shaykh Jabir Mubarak 'Abdallah al-Ahmad, declared in a press statement today here that the General Directorate of Civil Aviation categorically refutes the reports that were carried by the Iranian news agency which quoted the director of the Iran Air office in Kuwait, Hamad Reza Shaykh Imami, as saying that Iran and Kuwait are discussing the resumption of air flights between the two countries.

He said the directorate stressed that these reports have no basis of truth.

Qatar

Amir, Heir Apparent Hail Arab Groupings
*JN1802140489 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1240 GMT
18 Feb 89*

[Text] Manama, 18 Feb (WAKH)—His Highness Shaykh Khalifah ibn Hamad Al Thani, amir of the State of Qatar, has sent cables of congratulations to the leaders of the Arab Cooperation Council and the Arab Maghreb Union on the launching of the two new Arab groupings.

His Highness Shaykh Hamad ibn Khalifah Al Thani, Qatari heir apparent and defense minister, also sent similar cables to the leaders of the two Arab groupings.

Minister Receives Message From Iranian Minister
*JN1902152589 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1340 GMT
19 Feb 89*

[Text] Doha, 19 Feb (WAKH)—Shaykh Muhammad ibn Hamad Al Thani, Qatari minister of education and youth, has received a written message from Mohammad 'Ali Najafi, Iranian minister of education and training, dealing with educational and cultural cooperation between the two countries. The message also invites the Qatari minister to visit Iran.

The Qatari minister of education and youth accepted the invitation and promised to pay a visit at the appropriate time.

The message was conveyed by 'Abbas Gholam Hoseyn, adviser at the Iranian Ministry of Education and Training. The Iranian guest and his delegation were received by the Qatari minister here this morning.

Yemen Arab Republic

Salih on Arab Grouping, Other Issues
*JN2302084189 Sanaa Domestic Service in Arabic
0430 GMT 23 Feb 89*

[Excerpts] Brother leader President Colonel 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, president of the Republic, commander in chief of the Armed Forces, and secretary general of the General People's Congress, has asserted that there is a determination to proceed with our political and democratic experience to advance toward new horizons and to work at all executive and popular institutions in order to implement the resolutions and recommendations of the fourth general conference.

He said democracy is our option which we will not relinquish or sell out at all, regardless of the difficulties created by the adversaries of democracy. He added that any difficulties facing democracy will be confronted with further entrenchment of the democratic course and behavior in our society so democracy will become a firmly established tradition which will enrich the people with further achievements and gains.

In a statement published by the weekly newspaper 26 SEPTEMBER today, Thursday, he described the establishment of the Arab Cooperation Council [ACC] as a historic, unionist achievement for our Arab nation, as well as an advanced qualitative contribution on the path of realizing a comprehensive Arab unity. He explained that the ACC is the fruit of a planned, realistic action which benefited from our Arab nation's previous unionist experience with all of its negative and positive

aspects. He said the components of success for this experience are available, foremost being the availability of good intentions and the sincere desire by the ACC leaders to provide the elements of success and make this experience achieve the goals sought from the ACC establishment in terms of enhancing joint Arab action and realizing the Arab nation's integration and unity. [passage omitted]

The brother leader president reasserted that our country will remain committed to supporting any fraternal country whose security may be subjected to any outside aggression, out of our country's commitment to the collective Arab defense pact. The brother leader president said oil exploration is under way in our country and the results herald glad tidings and will be announced at the appropriate time. He asserted that our country supports any meeting which seeks reunion, unity of ranks, and circumvention of sideline differences which only benefit the enemies of our Arab nation.

The brother leader president said: We hope the new U.S. Administration will adopt more advanced stands on the Palestinian Arab people's cause, recognize their legitimate rights, and support the international efforts to resolve this just humanitarian issue under the UN aegis with the participation of all concerned parties along with the permanent Security Council member states. [passage omitted]

Al-'Attar Makes Statement, Leaves for Morocco
*JN2102135989 Sanaa Domestic Service in Arabic
1200 GMT 21 Feb 89*

[Text] Brother Muhammad Sa'id al-'Attar, deputy prime minister, minister of development, head of the Central Planning Department, and member of the Standing Committee, left for Rabat today leading our country's delegation to the 13th annual meeting of the governors of Islamic banks, which will be held in the Moroccan capital 21-26 February.

In a statement to SABA, Dr al-'Attar said that the meeting will discuss a number of topics and will follow up the projects financed by the bank in the member states, including our country. He pointed out that on the sidelines of the bank's meetings, he will meet with a number of bank governors and heads of Arab financial institutions to bolster economic relations with these countries.

'Al-'Attar also said that he will pay an official visit to Bulgaria at the end of the meeting and will lead our country's delegation to the first special meeting to discuss economic cooperation between our country and Bulgaria.

Shevardnadze Arrives in Baghdad 23 Feb
JN2302173089 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1700 GMT
23 Feb 89

[Text] Baghdad, 23 Feb (INA)—USSR Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze arrived in Baghdad today leading a large delegation on a 3-day visit to Iraq while on a tour of the region.

He was met at the airport by Tariq 'Aziz, deputy prime minister; the Foreign Ministry under secretary; senior Foreign Ministry officials; the Soviet ambassador in Baghdad; the Iraqi ambassador in Moscow; the socialist states' ambassadors in Baghdad; and embassy staff.

Answering a question by INA on the topics to be discussed during his visit to Iraq, Shevardnadze said that he will convey a message to President Saddam Husayn from Mikhail Gorbachev, CPSU secretary general and chairman of the USSR Supreme Soviet Presidium. He added that he will hold talks with Iraqi officials on various issues, particularly relations between the two countries. He said that this topic will be discussed in detail along with political, trade, economic, and cultural cooperation.

He said: Of course, Iraqi-Iranian negotiations will be discussed, especially since that is the major and basic issue for both our countries. The issue is an important one for all sides and we have a great desire to give an impetus to the negotiations. We will discuss several other issues, particularly the Middle East situation, Afghanistan, and issues of common concern.

The Soviet foreign minister added that during his talks with Tariq 'Aziz, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, he will convey his impressions of his current tour of Syria, Jordan, and Egypt, his meetings in Cairo with PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat, and his meeting there with the Israeli foreign minister.

Shevardnadze praised the establishment of the Arab Cooperation Council [ACC] among Iraq, Jordan, Egypt, and the YAR.

Answering an INA question on the establishment of the ACC, he said that any economic integration is a positive development, especially if it is not aimed against any state and does not encroach on other states' interests. He added: I know this economic integration is not aimed against any party. The talk here focuses on unity among Arab states for economic cooperation, and the ACC is open for others to join.

Regarding the situation in the Middle East, the Soviet foreign minister said the general impression is that there are now new and circumstances to settle the Middle East issue. This is fundamentally linked to the Palestinian uprising and the PLO's initiatives.

Shevardnadze is accompanied by an official delegation comprising Vladimir Polyakov, chief of the Near Eastern and North African Countries Administration at the Soviet Foreign Ministry; T.G. Stepanov, assistant to the foreign minister; (Chorkin), adviser to the foreign minister; (A.M. Kalogin), chief of Iraq section at the Near Eastern and North African Countries Administration; and a number of Soviet officials.

This is the first visit to Iraq by a Soviet foreign minister since the establishment of diplomatic relations between the two countries more than 45 years ago.

Criticizes Israel's Position

JN2302211889 Manama WAKH in Arabic 2020 GMT
23 Feb 89

[Excerpts] Baghdad, 23 Feb (WAKH)—USSR Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze has said that during his visit to Iraq he will discuss international efforts to bring peace to the Middle East and the Iraqi-Iranian talks. [passage omitted]

In answer to a question put to him by a WAKH correspondent, Shevardnadze criticized Israel's position on international peace efforts. The Israelis talk about and say they want peace but fail to match words with action, said the Soviet foreign minister. He stressed the importance of continuing dialogue and the need for joint efforts to attain peace. [passage omitted]

Meanwhile, Tariq 'Aziz, Iraq's deputy prime minister and foreign minister, welcoming Shevardnadze's visit to Baghdad, said he looked forward to holding comprehensive and successful talks with him on various issues. 'Aziz said Iraq is equally interested in the issues that concern the Soviets. The talks will be conducted in a cordial atmosphere and based on the understanding that has characterized their joint action in many areas over the years, 'Aziz said. Iraq has always welcomed and still welcomes an active Soviet role in the region. He hoped the Soviet diplomat's Mideast tour will help bring about peace in the region.

WAKH's correspondent has learned that 'Aziz and Shevardnadze are to hold morning and evening rounds of talks tomorrow. The Soviet official will call on President Saddam Husayn Saturday morning and hand him a letter from President Mikhail Gorbachev. He is to leave Baghdad Saturday afternoon for Tehran, the last stop on his current tour.

Airspace Reopened for International Flights
JN2302184889 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1720 GMT
23 Feb 89

[Text] Baghdad, 23 Feb (INA)—Iraq today reopened its airspace for international flights by Arab and foreign airliners landing in Iraq and for those heading for Tehran.

At a news conference here today, the director general of the General Establishment for Civil Aviation said that Basra International Airport was also open for international flights. He added that Iraqi airspace is now open for commercial use for flights heading for the Arab Gulf or for crossing through Iraq to Iran or any other direction.

He pointed out that the facilities that Basra International Airport will offer to airline companies operating and landing in Iraq include supplying planes with fuel, transit services, and engineering and technical services, in addition to full exemption from landing and parking fees, a reduction of 10 percent in the cost of foodstuffs compared to those at Saddam International Airport, and a reduction of 30 percent in the cost of ground, technical, and trade services.

The director general said that Basra International Airport is now ready to receive the largest planes and can cope with the arrival and departure of 2 million passengers a year.

This measure is in implementation of a decision made recently by President Saddam Husayn regarding the reopening of Iraqi airspace to flights heading for Iran.

President Ratifies ACC Foundation Agreement
JN1802193989 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic
1900 GMT 18 Feb 89

[Text] President leader Saddam Husayn has chaired a joint meeting of the RCC, the Ba'th Party Regional Command, and the Council of Ministers. During the meeting, they studied and reviewed the foundation agreement of the Arab Cooperation Council [ACC], and the agreement was ratified. During the meeting, the president leader also signed the law ratifying the foundation of the ACC. Then the conferees expressed their warm welcome of this historic pan-Arab achievement, which lays the principled and realistic groundwork for fruitful cooperation among the four fraternal countries to serve the interests of these countries as well as higher pan-Arab goals.

Then a joint meeting of the RCC and the Regional Command was held to follow up the issue of the National Assembly elections. During the meeting, they also dealt with the cooperation formula reached by the five Maghreb countries. The meeting expressed its welcome of the establishment of the Arab Maghreb Union, and stressed that Iraq wishes its brothers in the Arab Maghreb every success in serving their interests and the Arab nation's goals.

INA has learned that the Iraqi Government will file the law ratifying the foundation of the ACC at the Jordanian Foreign Ministry in accordance with Clause 1 of Article 17 of the foundation agreement of the ACC. The Iraqi ambassador to the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan was asked to carry the ratification document and the pen

with which the leaders of the four countries signed the foundation agreement on 16 February to be placed in the ACC headquarters, which will be established in Amman later.

Ramadan Departs Baghdad for Bulgaria 21 Feb
JN2102103889 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1005 GMT
21 Feb 89

[Text] Baghdad, 21 Feb (INA)—Taha Yasin Ramadan, RCC member and first deputy prime minister, left Baghdad today for Sofia leading a delegation on an official several-day visit to Bulgaria.

In a statement to INA, Ramadan said that he is carrying a message from President Saddam Husayn to Bulgarian State Council Chairman Todor Zhivkov dealing with the developed relations between the two friendly countries.

He added that during the visit, he will discuss with Bulgarian officials both the new prospects for relations between the two countries to contribute to promoting these relations in all fields and the political and international situations, particularly developments in the Iraqi-Iranian negotiations. He stressed Iraq's adherence to its legitimate rights and its serious desire to achieve a comprehensive, lasting peace between the two countries.

The first deputy prime minister pointed out that the comprehensive program of bilateral cooperation will be discussed during the meetings of the 20th session of the Iraqi-Bulgarian joint committee for economic, scientific, technical, and trade cooperation, which will be held in Sofia during this visit.

The Iraq delegation accompanying the first deputy prime minister includes Karim Hasan Rida, minister of agriculture and irrigation and head of the Iraqi delegation to the Iraqi-Bulgarian joint committee, and a number of Iraqi officials.

Returns From Sofia 22 Feb
JN2302091889 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0730 GMT
23 Feb 89

[Text] Baghdad, 23 Feb (INA)—Taha Yasin Ramadan, RCC member and first deputy prime minister, and his accompanying delegation returned to Baghdad last night at the end of a 2-day visit to Bulgaria.

Taha Yasin Ramadan told INA that during the visit he conveyed a written message from President leader Saddam Husayn and his excellency's greetings to Todor Zhivkov, chairman of the Bulgarian State Council. He pointed out that the message emphasizes Iraq's interest in promoting relations between the two countries.

He said President Zhivkov asked him to convey his heartfelt greetings to President leader Saddam Husayn as well as the assertion that Bulgaria wishes to maintain and promote relations between the two countries. Zhivkov also

highly appreciated Iraq's peaceful efforts and stands, voicing his country's support for establishing a lasting and just peace in accordance with UN Security Council Resolution No 598, Ramadan added.

The first deputy prime minister said the outcome of the visit was excellent and reflected the true relations based on genuine friendship and noble objectives between the two countries.

The delegation accompanying Taha Yasin Ramadan comprised Karim Hasan Rida, minister of agriculture and irrigation and head of the Iraqi side to the joint Iraqi-Bulgarian committee for economic, trade, scientific, and technical cooperation; the under secretary of the Ministry of Housing and Reconstruction; and a number of officials.

SLA Kills 3 'Terrorists' in Security Zone

TA2302153389 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew
1500 GMT 23 Feb 89

[Text] This report has been just received: Three Palestinian terrorists were killed this afternoon in a clash with South Lebanese Army (SLA) soldiers in the security zone. They were headed toward the Galilee, where they intended to carry out a terrorist act. The SLA troops suffered no casualties.

Our correspondent Hayim Hecht reports that an SLA patrol sighted the terrorists in the security zone's western sector as they were moving southward. The soldiers opened fire, killing the intruders.

A search of the terrorists revealed documents identifying them as Nayif Hawatimah's DFLP members, as well as weapons, ammunition, and barbed wire cutters to cut the border fence.

Foreign Ministry Statement

TA2402125989 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew
1200 GMT 24 Feb 89

[Text] The Foreign Ministry spokesman in Jerusalem said the infiltration attempt by members of Hawatimah's organization yesterday [23 February] in the security zone in southern Lebanon shows that the PLO has not stopped terrorist actions and has not fulfilled the promises 'Arafat disseminated in recent months.

In a statement issued at noon, the Foreign Ministry spokesman said that it was the fourth infiltration attempt by PLO terrorists since 5 December 1988, the date the United States decided to start a dialogue with the PLO based on 'Arafat's promise to renounce terror.

Israel is convinced that this terrorist action, in addition to the PLO's actions since December, have not gone unnoticed by the Americans and the other western nations.

UNIFIL Soldier Reported Killed by SLA Fire

TA2402112689 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew
1100 GMT 24 Feb 89

[Text] Here is a report just received from Menahem Horowitz, our correspondent in the north: An Irish UNIFIL soldier was killed in south Lebanon today at noon by fire from a position in the village of Haddathah. The UNIFIL spokesman reports that it was South Lebanese Army (SLA) soldiers who opened fire at the UNIFIL position, but this has not yet been confirmed by SLA sources.

Prime Minister Returns From France, Comments

TA2402142689 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew
1400 GMT 24 Feb 89

[Text] Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir returned from his visit to France a short while ago. At Ben-Gurion Airport, Yitzhaq Shamir said that in his talks with Francois Mitterrand the French president said he will neither do anything to harm Israel's security, nor will France allow others to do so.

Shamir added that the French president and prime minister expressed their doubt as to whether there is a party for a dialogue other than the PLO. Our correspondent Dan Eshel reports that the prime minister reiterated that the USSR cannot be involved in the peace process as long as it does not resume diplomatic relations with Israel.

As for his upcoming trip to the United States, the prime minister said he will carry with him ideas and proposals which, taken all together, could constitute a peace plan.

Shamir on Soviet Role

PM2302154889 Paris LE FIGARO in French
21 Feb 89 p 4

[Interview with Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir by Stephane Marchand—date, place not given]

[Text] [Marchand] Your foreign minister is in Cairo, where he is due to meet with Eduard Shevardnadze tomorrow. What contribution do you think the USSR can make to peace negotiations in the Near East?

[Shamir] Mr Shevardnadze says that he is bringing plans and initiatives for solving the Middle East's problems. The Soviet Union is very anxious to help to draw up political solutions in our region. I do not know any details about their ideas, but I am sure that he has proposals to make to the countries in this part of the world.

[Marchand] The USSR is very active in the region, whereas the United States seems to have other priorities. Is this not embarrassing for Israel?

[Shamir] It is true that the United States has other priorities, but so has the USSR. However, it is clear that the United States will play a very important role in everything that happens in our region, now and in the future. A few months' delay is not important. At all events, we will have the two superpowers' active participation in Middle East negotiations.

[Marchand] Do you think that the USSR is still demanding Israel's acceptance of an international conference before it reestablishes relations with the Jewish state?

[Shamir] It is difficult to answer that question. After all, it was the Soviets who initiated the idea of an international Near East peace conference in Brezhnev's days. It would be a major change if the Soviet Union abandoned the idea of that conference. But the USSR may now be ready to consider other ways of promoting a peace process.

[Marchand] You are due to meet with President Mitterrand. He has announced his intention of meeting with Yasir 'Arafat shortly, possibly in Cairo.

[Shamir] I would be happy if the French president refrained from taking that step. Every effort by Europe or any state in the world to increase the prestige and importance of Yasir 'Arafat and the PLO damages the cause of peace in our region. The PLO is now a great obstacle to peace. This obstacle increases each time the PLO receives diplomatic encouragement. Such an initiative by Mr Mitterrand would not serve peace.

Reactions Based on Fear

[Marchand] You were brought to power by the Israeli people, and your position was confirmed in November 1988. Several opinion polls published in the national press show that more than 50 percent of Israelis are in favor of direct negotiations with the PLO.

[Shamir] You cannot run state affairs with opinion polls. My government was formed after the elections, with the people's support. However, during the election campaign, we clearly indicated that we would never have contacts with the PLO.

[Marchand] You often say that you want to negotiate with the Palestinians. At the same time, you refuse any contact with the PLO. Does that have any meaning when all the Palestinians repeatedly say that the PLO is their sole representative?

[Shamir] It is impossible to disguise the fact that many Palestinians do not regard 'Arafat as their sole representative. However, they often say it because they are afraid and suffer terrorist pressure. Many Palestinians believe that the way to improve their living conditions and their political status is direct negotiations with Israel, not violence, and not clashes with the Israeli army. But, unfortunately, for centuries the Palestinian Arab population has always been dominated by an extremist terrorist minority. That is the source of their misfortune.

[Marchand] But history is full of examples of an active minority pushing a passive majority toward a political result. Surely Israel was built in that way?

[Shamir] You cannot always draw an analogy. First, not all minorities in the world have been terrorists. Second, they have not all won. In Israel, we are facing a long and deep-seated conflict—the conflict that the Jewish people and Arab world are waging over the land of Israel. It can

be solved in two ways. Either by permanent, violent confrontation. That has already been tried without any decisive result. Or you can seek a compromise. I think that the time has come to achieve peace. The PLO cannot make any positive contribution to that.

[Marchand] You are hostile to an international conference. You say that there must be direct negotiations, face-to-face, with just one interlocutor at a time. What danger would there be in talking to 'Arafat—just talking?

[Shamir] It is dangerous because there are always political implications. Such a meeting would amount to recognition of the PLO and hence acceptance of the PLO's minimum demands—in other words the creation of a Palestinian state. Everybody knows that that is the PLO's program. In view of the fact that we will never agree to such a program, there is no point in maintaining relations with the PLO. No, if we are seeking peace, we must have talks with men who are interested in making peace with Israel. 'Arafat wants peace but without Israel. What is the point of meeting him? It is better to negotiate with those elements who want to live with Israel, who want real peace.

Not Following the Example of Lies

[Marchand] You are 73 years old. Would you not like to meet 'Arafat, your enemy, just once in your life?

[Shamir] I have already met people who were my enemies.

[Marchand] You claim that 'Arafat's renunciation of terrorism is merely a tactical change, and that he maintains the same strategy, which is based on Israel's destruction. Why do you not also change your tactics and what you say?

[Shamir] Should I follow 'Arafat in his large-scale use of lies? Truth does not matter to him. We have different principles, we have a different morality. Israel is part of the free democratic world. Lies are not part of our diplomatic arsenal.

[Marchand] The whole world is talking with the PLO. Is it not dangerous for Israel to obstinately adhere to an automatic refusal?

[Shamir] We do not always say no. We put forward many proposals and ideas that can lead to positive results in real negotiations, serious peace negotiations. Foreign Minister Moshe Arens is in Cairo. He has had the opportunity to meet with President Mubarak. He told him a great deal about the chances of peace. Tomorrow, he will see Mr Shevardnadze for the second time. He will inform him of the many viewpoints, which cannot be defined as saying "no."

[Marchand] Are you prepared to meet with Faysal al-Husayni (the most prominent Palestinian figure in the occupied territories—LE FIGARO editor's note)?

[Shamir] Faysal al-Husayni does not represent anybody. He always says that he supports the PLO and 'Arafat. Why should I talk with him? He lives in Jerusalem, and any Israeli citizen can meet with him, but I do not attach any political importance to such contacts.

[Marchand] However, some Labor Party members, including Yosi Beilin, a minister in your government, met with him.

[Shamir] That produced no results.

Joint Program

[Marchand] But you must find Palestinian interlocutors who represent the inhabitants of the territories and who are accepted by you and by the PLO. Faysal al-Husayni is such a person.

[Shamir] It is very well known that the PLO does not allow any Palestinian to negotiate with Israel. Moreover, Al-Husayni says to all those who come to see him: Ask the PLO, not me.

[Marchand] Fairly marked disagreements are appearing within your coalition with the Labor Party on the question of contacts with the Palestinians.

[Shamir] There are certainly disagreements, but Likud and the Labor Party belong to the same government and that government's joint program obliges the two sides to conduct no negotiations with the PLO.

[Marchand] But the program also says that it is necessary to have talks with the Palestinians.

[Shamir] Yes, I agree. Why not? But it all depends on who is talking and with whom. We have done that. We will do it again.

[Marchand] Do you personally have regular meetings with Palestinians?

[Shamir] I meet them from time to time because I know that we must live with them in the same land. I want to understand them better, and it is in my interests to explain our viewpoint to them. I say to them: "We want to live in peace with you. Violence will serve no purpose. It will only bring disaster." Many people accept those ideas, but the PLO rejects them and many governments, especially European governments, are encouraging the PLO and preventing these more moderate elements, those who do not support the PLO, from taking independent initiatives.

Withdrawal If....

[Marchand] Do you meet with those Palestinians in Israel?

[Shamir] There is no point in going abroad. It is very easy to meet with them in my office or elsewhere.

[Marchand] Are they prominent people who represent the inhabitants of the West Bank and Gaza or are they simply leading figures whom you like?

[Shamir] They are prominent people who have things to say, important people who are respected. At all events, there is no official representation of the Palestinian population.

[Marchand] If there were elections in the territories, would your interlocutors be elected?

[Shamir] Possibly, possibly....

[Marchand] The Camp David agreements make provision for a partial withdrawal of the Israeli forces to a number of specific points in order to ensure Israel's security. Why not make that withdrawal immediately?

[Shamir] That withdrawal is merely part of a future political arrangement between the Palestinian population and Israel. It would not be a measure separate from a comprehensive political settlement.

[Marchand] If things progress in a satisfactory way, could that withdrawal take place in 1 year's time?

[Shamir] Undoubtedly, if the framework laid down is respected.

Further Reportage on Shamir Visit to France

For French media coverage of Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir's visit to France, including his meetings with French President Francois Mitterrand and Foreign Minister Roland Dumas, see the France section of the 24 February West Europe DAILY REPORT and subsequent issues.

Arens on Peace Plan, Mubarak, Soviet Relations

TA2202210389 Jerusalem Television Service
in Hebrew 1940 GMT 22 Feb 89

[Interview with Foreign Minister Moshe Arens by Yoram Ronen on the "Moqed" program—live]

[Excerpts] [Passage omitted] [Ronen] You have said, Mr Arens, that we should ask ourselves where we are heading. One of the central questions is: What is the Israeli peace plan? At the cabinet meeting this week, the prime minister pointed out that we would do better to formulate our peace plan after his return from the United States. Are the Soviets ready to wait that long?

[Arens] I think we should differentiate between the contents of any given initiative and its timing. A peace plan—and I assume that what is meant by that are the

final border lines—can be achieved only through negotiations. It is impossible to put the cart before the horse. There is no room at this time for any final drawing of a map that we wish to reach through negotiations. Our task right now is to resume the dialogue.

I explained to Soviet Foreign Minister Shevardnadze that the peace agreement with Egypt took 30 years and five wars. People here thought that all the other Arab countries would sign a peace agreement with us within a few months, perhaps within a year or 2. This did not happen. The process remained stuck in the mud through no fault of ours. We are the party that waited with a hand extended for peace, while the other side refused to respond.

At the same time, while we realize that the fact that the process was stopped was not our fault, we wish to introduce momentum to the process; we wish to bring an initiative that would stand a chance to be followed by dialogue, which in its turn would yield some final results. I think such an initiative will come.

[Ronen] Do you believe this initiative should be brought up after the prime minister's visit to Washington?

[Arens] I do not want to discuss the timing. It is clear to me that the person who should be the first to announce the initiative is the prime minister. The cabinet should speak in one voice, and the prime minister should speak on behalf of the entire cabinet. He will surely choose the appropriate timing for that.

[Ronen] Mr Foreign Minister, each time you meet with Shevardnadze—which happened twice in the past 2 months—there is talk of the imminent resumption of diplomatic relations. Are the Soviets still making the resumption contingent on anything?

[Arens] I do not think they should pose any preconditions, and I told the Soviet foreign minister so. It is their decision, and I did not attempt to talk him into anything or to convince him. I said: This is your decision; you severed relations, and you will decide when they should be restored again. You know, however, that we believe in the universality of diplomatic relations, which should not depend on agreement, positions, or policies. I also believe that the Soviet Union, as one of the two superpowers in the region, will not allow themselves to be dictated to by anyone on conditions or timing.

They will make the decision. It seems to me that we are making progress in that direction. Today we agreed to continue our meetings. We also agreed today that a meeting between experts from both sides will take place. I have the impression that developments of this kind will naturally lead to the normalization of relations between the two countries. [passage omitted]

[Ronen] Mr Foreign Minister, my last question: You have said that there was good chemistry between you and President Mubarak, and between you and Foreign Minister 'Abd al-Majid. Today or yesterday, however, we again heard harsh remarks by President Mubarak, who said that he categorically refuses to meet with Yitzhaq Shamir until the latter agrees to the PLO's participation in negotiations. Is the Egyptian stand still that unbending with regard to meeting Yitzhaq Shamir?

[Arens] I have not seen this quotation of President Mubarak's remarks.

[Ronen] It appeared in one of the Arab papers today.

[Arens] I do not know where it was said. In the long conversation I held with him when we were alone, he said nothing like this. I was deeply impressed by his determination to contribute to the peace process, by his familiarity with the circumstances in the Middle East, and with the antagonists on the local scene. I think that as far as promoting the process, he enjoys a unique position—and I told him so. [passage omitted]

Envoy: USSR Condition for Ties 'Unacceptable'
TA2302112489 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew
0600 GMT 23 Feb 89

[Interview with Arye Levin, head of the Israeli consular delegation in Moscow, by Ilana Dayan and Mikha Friedman; in the studio—live]

[Friedman] Ambassador Arye Levin, good morning.

[Levin] Good morning.

[Friedman] We must make it clear to our listeners that you were among the participants in yesterday's important meeting between Israeli Foreign Minister Moshe Arens and Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze. Shevardnadze said that the USSR's precondition for reestablishing full diplomatic relations with us is the removal of Israel's opposition to an international peace conference, to be preceded by a preparatory conference with the participation of the five permanent members of the UN Security Council.

If we put two and two together, could we say that as long as Israel rejects the Soviet ideas, there will be no additional progress in the official relations between us and the USSR?

[Levin] This might be true or it might be only partially so. The Soviets are now trying a move. They are in the midst of it right now. They have entered through a political crack left open after their exit from Afghanistan and before the U.S. Administration has decided on its practical steps in the region. We are not certain what their next steps will be. This, however, is how they present the issue.

[Friedman] This is also the way we present the issues. We do not intend to let the Soviets penetrate this opening too deeply if they do not renew diplomatic relations with us first. Is this how things stand?

[Levin] This is what we have said in the past, and it could be assumed that we still maintain this view. It is impossible for a superpower such as the USSR to take part in this highly important process without maintaining normal relations with us.

[Dayan] The impression—despite statements by Israel and the United States—is that the Soviets have taken an irreversible course in terms of relations with Israel. They are merely awaiting a convenient time, perhaps even to be more flexible in this demand for Israeli acceptance of an international conference. Although I realize that the issue was not explicitly raised, did you get the impression from the meeting with Shevardnadze that the Kremlin has already reached the decision to reestablish full relations with Israel?

[Levin] This is what we have been hearing in Moscow and other places. It is very probable that the USSR has reached a decision to reestablish ties with Israel; however, they have a price: Soviet participation. If the price tag for this participation is the one we heard in the news this morning [referring to Shevardnadze remarks that the PLO must be a party to all steps leading to an international conference], this price is of course unacceptable to us, and the Soviets must realize this.

[Friedman] Even if the USSR withdraws this condition for reestablishing diplomatic relations with Israel, we are still left with the United States, which is not too thrilled by the Soviet Union reentering the Middle East in general and the peace process in particular.

[Levin] The Americans have told the Soviets, and not for the first time, that they should adopt a constructive attitude, meaning that they should relate to this issue of the peace process in an acceptable manner and not issue demands such as, for example, those they are presenting today.

[Dayan] Perhaps we will put the question more directly: Has Jerusalem received any message from Washington that perhaps expresses reservations about this race into the arms of the Soviets, at least as far as the current process is concerned?

[Levin] I do not believe so. I do not see that such a race is actually taking place. I do not believe that the Americans should be worried by what is happening. Our connections with the Soviets are quite acceptable, because we are maintaining relations, and one needs to maintain relations with this superpower in today's world in order to survive.

[Dayan] A good and friendly atmosphere was mentioned at the meeting with Shevardnadze. All in all, do you agree that the importance of the meeting lies in the fact that it took place, or do you see any concrete results from it?

[Levin] There is no doubt that the fact that the meeting took place is important in itself, because we have not maintained such relations for many years. Today, when it is actually happening, it is part of the natural course of relations between countries.

[Friedman] But if meetings between the foreign ministers continue—and it seems that on a personal level they will—the time will come when we will stop being overwhelmed by the importance of the meeting itself and will begin to look for the content and achievements. Are there none at present, or do you see some?

[Levin] We have examined the contents of the Soviet proposals. As they are presented now, they are unacceptable for us. The Soviets must understand our positions and realize that such things will not pass as acceptable in Israel. Perhaps once they realize this, their position in the area will be stronger. If they fail to do so, they will remain where they have been all these years.

If they do not change their position, or in other words, if they do not stand by their head of state, who spoke of a shift away from the ideological approach to international relations, and continue issuing unacceptable demands, their position in the region will remain what it has been.

[Dayan] In this sense, can it be understood from what you have said and from the general atmosphere of the conversation, which was termed sincere and open, that in fact there were more points of disagreement than agreement?

[Levin] Of course there were differences. Our position is totally different from that of the USSR. The USSR is not a part of the region. It keeps supporting its old customers. This is the wrong approach. This is no way to maintain international relations. We must understand each other. Minister Arens suggested just that to Shevardnadze, and he agreed. I hope that we will be able to explain our positions and the reasons for them in more detail in the near future.

[Friedman] You are referring to the expert teams that are to start working soon. When are they scheduled to start working?

[Levin] We did not set a date...

[Friedman, interrupting] Will you head the Israeli delegation?

[Levin] I do not know. This is for the foreign minister to decide.

[Friedman] When Arens tells Shevardnadze that he is willing to accept Soviet mediation with all our neighbors, including Syria, can we gather from this that Shevardnadze brought some message of peace from Damascus?

[Levin] No, but as the Soviet minister and the Soviets in general claim to be on good and special terms with the Arabs, particularly Syria, it would only be natural for us to address him and say: Bring the Syrians to the negotiating table. This is what has been said.

[Friedman] Ambassador Arye Levin, thank you.

USSR's Bogdanov Comments

TA2202204789 Jerusalem Television Service in Hebrew
1940 GMT 22 Feb 89

[Interview in English with Radomir Bogdanov, vice president of the Soviet Peace Committee, by "Moqed" program moderator Yoram Ronen—videotaped on 22 February]

[Excerpt] [Passage omitted] [Ronen] Mr Bogdanov, there are still two main impediments on the way to solve this conflict: meaning that Israel does not agree to the participation of the PLO in the negotiations, and Israel rejects any international conference, which your country insists on.

[Bogdanov] You know, I am not an expert on the Middle East. I rather belong to the crowd of students of international relations. But I believe in the system of international relations, the Middle East problem has quite a prominent place. So my point is that you have been trying to solve this problem for so many years by military means, and I am sorry to say nobody succeeded so far.

Why not try political means? We believe very strongly now, in the Soviet Union—and that's one of the pillars of the new thinking—that you cannot solve political problems by military means. This is a disaster for you. So why not try...

[Ronen, interrupting] You [word indistinct] in Afghanistan.

[Bogdanov] Yes, I am not talking only about Afghanistan, but some other problems; for instance, our competition with the United States. We have been...

[Ronen, interrupting] That is exactly what I wanted to ask you. Do you see any joint American-Soviet pressure on Israel and the Arab countries?

[Bogdanov] I hate to talk about pressure. I don't believe in pressure. What kind of pressure can you exert on a country as Israel is? You know, what you call pressure I call a coincidence of national Israeli interests with the attitude of the other countries. It may look like pressure, but it is not pressure.

I don't believe in pressure. If Israel doesn't like to follow somebody's policy, or Israel believes this is not in its national interest, what pressure you can exert on Israel? Or what pressure can you exert on the Soviet Union or the USA? So I believe this is high time to be realistic and stop talking about this nonsense. I am sorry to say that.

[Ronen] So would you think that Israel and the Soviet Union are now in the right track? In other words, what is your scenario for the following next few months?

[Bogdanov] I am not a dreamer, player, or you know, and scenario [changes thought]. I would prefer to be a little bit cautious about scenarios, because with your region you never know what will happen tomorrow or the day after tomorrow. You can't predict everything. But I strongly believe that all of us, all of us, we are on the right track. Meaning what? That we are moving in the right direction. What is very much needed now is common sense, passions and a spirit of compromise and to think...

[Ronen, interrupting] And maybe we also need diplomatic relations?

[Bogdanov] Yes, of course, I have no doubts that that will be renewed. Your problem is, when? But who can predict that? And this is not one-way traffic, this is mutual, you know. But we should stop thinking in terms of confrontation. That's the most important thing. We should think in terms of cooperation and instead of balance of power we should start thinking in terms of balance of interests, then we will succeed.

[Ronen] Thank you very much, Mr Bogdanov.

More on Bogdanov Remarks

TA2102114189 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST
in English 21 Feb 89 p 12

[Report by political reporter Dan Petreanu]

[Text] The Soviet Union will definitely restore diplomatic relations with Israel, according to Radomir Bogdanov, the vice president of the Soviet Peace Committee, who is visiting Israel this week.

"It's only a question of time—exactly when it will happen depends on how things proceed bilaterally," he said in an interview with THE JERUSALEM POST.

Bogdanov, who will today address the peace symposium sponsored by the International Centre for Peace in the Middle East, said he will tell his audience that "things are changing all over the world, regional conflicts are being resolved all over, and it's time for you here to understand what we have come to understand: that military force cannot solve disagreements—only political agreements can."

Past Soviet actions to the contrary were carried out "by a completely different Soviet Union," Bogdanov said.

He said that the idea of free elections was already accepted by the authorities, and in upcoming elections nothing but "the will of the people" would prevent non-communist victories.

Furthermore, he maintained, if one of the Soviet Union's allies in Eastern Europe decided to withdraw from the Warsaw Pact, the Soviet Union would not intervene militarily as it did in Hungary and Czechoslovakia.

"This is the age of freedom of choice," he said.

The Soviet Peace Committee, which Bogdanov said has "millions and millions" of grass-roots supporters, is "completely free" to oppose the government, and has done so especially in ecological matters. The Committee also bitterly opposed the war in Afghanistan. "How can we democratize our own society when we are involved in this very silly and damaging war?" he said.

He said he has not come to lecture Israel but to listen. "I have much more appreciation of your delicate position than people here would think," Bogdanov said. "I am not among the people that come here and think there are simple solutions. I know you have very real security concerns."

But Bogdanov personally believes that Israel should apply a lesson from U.S.-Soviet relations: "We understand that if the Americans feel insecure, then that damages our security as well. The same applies here: there cannot be security to Israel without security for its neighbours."

Researcher: Ties To Improve

TA2302173789 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew
1500 GMT 23 Feb 89

[Report by Yaron Toren on remarks made by (Andrey Shumikhin), the head of the Middle Eastern Department of the American Institute in Moscow, at the Hebrew University's Center for Soviet Studies in Jerusalem, on 23 February—recorded, with (Shumikhin) speaking in English]

[Text] [Toren] The relations between Israel and the Soviet Union were based, until recently, on a mixture of ideology and emotions. This prevented mutual understanding and even caused distortions. (Andrey Shumikhin), the head of the Middle Eastern Department in the American Institute situated in Moscow, says, however, that lately changes have taken place on both sides. In his opinion, this change will lead to renewed relations.

[(Shumikhin)] The recent events all show that we are firmly...

[Toren superimposes translation of above remarks into Hebrew and continues] ...moving in this direction, and sooner or later we will arrive at the restoration of diplomatic relations between our two countries. To make sure, however, that these relations have real value and content, we must proceed carefully, and the Soviet Union must not be prodded or rushed. Regarding the issue of Soviet participation in peace negotiations in the region, (Shumikhin) says that the Soviet Union should not be seen as a bear that has come to steal all the honey.

[(Shumikhin)] I am certainly not putting any claim at becoming a Middle Eastern country, God forbid...

[Toren superimposes translation of above remarks into Hebrew and continues] ...but I would like to state that considering our proximity to the region we cannot be independently or forcibly disconnected from the Middle East.

And regarding the peace negotiations, (Shumikhin) shows great flexibility.

[(Shumikhin)] I do not think the Soviet Union will object to a Soviet-American initiative if...

[Toren superimposes Hebrew translation of above and continues] ...it indeed comes to pass. I believe that the Soviet Union is open to any suggestion that might lead to an accord that would improve the situation, considering the dangers inherent in the lack of a settlement or any delay in its achievement.

Cairo Meeting Viewed as Part of 'Larger Picture'

TA2302134389 Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT
in Hebrew 23 Feb 89 p 2

[Editorial: "After 20 Years of Silence"]

[Text] Foreign Minister Moshe Arens' visit to Cairo, and his meeting with the Soviet foreign minister in particular, come across in the initial reports as having been a spectacular success. One must be careful about this impression.

After all, visits and meetings of politicians have a single purpose: reaching agreements and joint decisions. That lies a long way ahead.

Nevertheless, Minister Arens put his finger on the issue when he said, with the restraint that is typical of him: "Any meeting (with the Soviets) contributes to progress. We have gone through 20 years of silence, and the feeling is that there is a great deal to talk about and that this is only the beginning...."

This is the beginning of a process that is expected to continue. Arens and Shevardnadze will hold additional meetings, and they agreed on meetings at the level of

experts. This does not guarantee an agreement, but is proof that there is willingness to be exposed to the positions of the other side. After 20 years of silence, this is in no way negligible.

Perhaps what happened in Cairo is only one side of a much larger picture. Several significant meetings are expected to take place in Tokyo, where world leaders are gathered to attend Emperor Hirohito's funeral: President Bush will meet King Husayn and President Mubarak; following his meeting with Mr Shamir in Paris, President Mitterrand will hold an audience with King Husayn and may even try to bring Jordan back to the peace talks.

All this enhances the feeling that something is moving. And, maybe, this is not just a feeling....

Daily Comments on USSR Ties Normalization
TA2302140589 Tel Aviv DAVAR in Hebrew 23 Feb 89 p 7

[Editorial: "Normalization Before Formalization"]

[Text] It may be an exaggeration to say that Moshe Arens walked into a Soviet trap in Cairo, especially because it often happens that issues raised in talks of such level are disclosed to the media only a long time later. The public descriptions of the lengthy talk with Eduard Shevardnadze, however, justify fears about the attainment of a Soviet objective and Israel's weakness.

Arens bragged to journalists that the talk had put an end to a 20-year "drought." This bragging is based on a very short memory both of the speaker and his audience. After all, the welcome thaw in relations between the two countries began over 3 years ago when Shim'on Peres was prime minister and, what is more, through the initiative of the (then) new administration of Mikhail Gorbachev.

Also this time it was Shevardnadze who invited his Israeli counterpart to a meeting in order to advance the Soviet objectives: formalizing the channels of dialogue with the non-Arab side to the conflict; proving to Washington that the Soviets hold frequent contacts with Israel and that consequently there is no excuse to leave them out of the political process; and placating the Arabs and getting them gradually used to an ongoing Soviet-Israeli connection unlike a one-time dramatic event such as resuming diplomatic relations from square one.

It is easier for the Soviets to raise the level of relations step by step, starting with a consular delegation, continuing with a representation authorized to deal with political issues, and only finally opening an embassy. In view of the fact that the meeting took place in Cairo, it is interesting to note the similarity between this process and the solution the Egyptians found 2 years ago to the problem of returning their ambassador to Tel Aviv: Instead of appointing a new ambassador, they promoted the senior man on the scene (Muhammad Basyuni) both in his duties and in rank. It will be no surprise if this were

also to be the case with Arye Levin, assistant director general of the Foreign Ministry, who heads the Israeli delegation in Moscow and is slated to serve as the head of the representation.

This would seem to be more or less the Soviet plan, a plan that is one-sided and is not contingent on any counter gestures by Israel (although a surprising agreement by Shamir's government to hold an international conference would probably regale Israel with a full and immediate resumption of diplomatic relations). If Shamir and Arens have a new political plan in their dossiers, Shevardnadze set a trap for them this week.

By exposing it, they would be indirectly bargaining through him with the next man on his agenda, PLO chairman Yasir 'Arafat, before an Israeli coordination with the Bush administration. The weird result is that Shevardnadze hastened to talk to the main protagonists in the Israeli-Arab conflict before Bush and Secretary of State Baker had time to do so, and that he will be meeting Baker even before the U.S. Administration—which half-heartedly praised his tour—has had a chance to talk to Israel.

The Soviets have gotten Syria and even the PLO used to the idea of a normalization of their relations with Israel. Just as in certain schools of architecture, in this case form will follow function and formalization will follow normalization. At the moment, however, it seems that the pace is dictated by the Soviet timetable.

Rabin Leaves for Lecture Tour in London
TA2402093789 Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT in Hebrew 24 Feb 89 p 1

[Text] Defense Minister Yitzhaq Rabin left yesterday for Europe.

Rabin is scheduled to appear in London on a lecture tour sponsored by Qeren Hayesod.

The minister is being accompanied on his visit to London by Mrs Rabin and his media adviser Eytan Haber.

Publisher Requested Not To Print Rushdie Book
JN2302163289 Jerusalem in Arabic to the Arab World 1030 GMT 23 Feb 89

[Text] Our correspondent Shafiq Mansur has learned that Zvulun Or-Lev, director general of the Ministry of Religious Affairs, has sent a message to the Israeli Keter publishing house asking it not to translate and publish the book "Satanic Verses" by the Muslim British writer Salman Rushdie.

Or-Lev explained that the law does not prevent the publication of this book in Israel, but we must take into consideration the feelings of the world's Muslims and Israel's Muslims in particular, who hoped that the Keter

publishing house would revoke its decision to translate the book into Hebrew and distribute it in the country in view of the offense it causes to Muslim sentiments and beliefs.

Peres Expected To Move for Early Elections

TA1602172489 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew
16 Feb 89 p 3

[Report by Ilan Shehori]

[Text] Officials in the Prime Minister's Office believe that Shim'on Peres will call for early Knesset elections within a few months. A few days ago Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir instructed his close associates to prepare for the eventuality that Peres will take action to dissolve the unity government. Shamir has held several consultations on this matter, the first one about 2 weeks ago.

The assessment in the Prime Minister's Office is that Peres will take such a course of action, not due to the political stalemate or the ill state of the economy, but primarily because he assumes that none of his rivals in the Labor Party will dare challenge his leadership if elections are held within the next 1 or 2 years. This assumption would not be that certain if elections are held as scheduled 4 years hence.

In view of Peres' recent remarks that he will dissolve the coalition if the Likud does not support his proposed state budget, the Prime Minister's Office has decided to closely monitor his moves and prevent him from bringing down the government at any cost. "Shamir will not help Peres hold early elections, but if Peres tries to take such action we will not be surprised," officials in the Prime Minister's Office noted yesterday.

Several Labor Party ministers also believe that within a few months Peres will seek to bring about early elections. According to the coalition agreement between the Likud and the Labor Party, this would be brought about by either of the two major parties quitting the government.

Labor Party officials argue that Peres is frustrated in his job as finance minister and with his dealing with labor relations at a time when far-reaching political changes are occurring all over the world and he cannot make a contribution. The officials contend that Peres would not enjoy the support of the Alignment ministers, particularly those who want to run for the Labor Party leadership in 1992 and believe early elections would affect their chances, if he does not have a substantial and serious reason to disband the government.

Rabin Outlines Goals for Territories

TA2102123889 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST
in English 21 Feb 89 p 1

[Report by Asher Wallfish and Andy Goldberg]

[Text] Defence Minister Yitzhaq Rabin said yesterday his aim is to drive a wedge between the Palestinians living in the territories and the PLO leadership and the Palestinians living outside.

He told the Alignment Knesset faction: "The more we enhance the differences between those Palestinians who live here, and the rest who live outside, the better we can pave the way for negotiations between Israel and the Palestinians in the territories."

Rabin said: "We want to make the Palestinians in the territories realize at long last that the PLO just brings them one disaster after another... The PLO leadership in Tunis is worried about what is happening right now in the territories. It fears it is losing control. Four thousand vehicles crammed with workers left Gaza for Israel on Saturday night, despite the three-day strike called by the intifadah [uprising]."

"On top of that, the PLO leadership fears it has proven a failure on the international scene."

The Defence Minister, referring to the meetings of Alignment MKs [Knesset Members] with Faysal al-Husayni, said no prohibitions had been violated. "The problem is the way it was done, the timing and the failure to coordinate in advance," he said.

Rabin told Peace Now representatives in Tel Aviv yesterday that he believes his peace plan will shortly win the support of the American administration, the representatives said after meeting with him.

They claimed Rabin said the plan would be discussed by the government on Shamir's return from the U.S., and that the Soviet rejection of the plan was not a serious obstacle. A top Rabin aide present at the meeting said he did not recall the Defence Minister making such statements.

Rabin's plan calls for a six-month moratorium on the intifadah and democratic elections in the territories to elect residents who would negotiate with Israel for an interim settlement.

Rabin predicted that PLO leader Yasir 'Arafat would eventually disapprove the Americans.

"The Americans are against a Palestinian state and thus against the PLO. 'Arafat cannot deliver—the Americans know this and the Palestinians know this too,'" Rabin told the five Peace Now delegates. Rabin said that the PLO would never surrender the right of Palestinians to resettle anywhere in Israel, a key condition for an official Israeli agreement to meet 'Arafat.

Rabin disagreed with the Peace Now officials who argued that there was no chance for his plan's acceptance as long as he kept giving orders to shoot at stone-throwers, blow up houses and deport the territories' residents.

Al-Husayni, Nusaybah Comment on Meetings
TA2202162789 Jerusalem AL-FAJR in Arabic
19 Feb 89 pp 1, 11

[Report by Muhammad 'Abd Rabbuh on interview with Faysal al-Husayni and Dr Sari Nusaybah—date not given]

[Excerpts] Jerusalem—In an exclusive interview with AL-FAJR, two prominent Palestinian figures affirmed that the recent meetings between Palestinian and senior Israeli personalities seek, first of all, to clarify the Palestinian peace message expressed by the PNC at its latest session in Algiers. The meetings also aim to find a comprehensive and just peace in the region within the framework of the PLO's approach, which calls for achieving this through an international conference.

Faysal al-Husayni, head of the Arab Studies Society in Jerusalem and the most prominent participant in these meetings, pointed out that the recent meetings were held at a personal level, the aim of which was to present the Palestinian position clearly and directly to the Israeli personalities, as well as to explore the reaction by Israeli circles from various schools of thought toward the Palestinian move and developments in general.

Al-Husayni expressed his conviction that the Palestinian uprising as well as the diplomatic and political victories achieved by the PLO in recent months have created a movement inside Israeli society that ranges between wavering and moving clearly toward the need to talk with the PLO. We have sensed and realized this by means of these meetings, through which we are trying to seek a comprehensive and just peace in the region within the framework of the PLO's approach, which calls for achieving this through an international conference.

Such meetings will undoubtedly widen and expand the belief that the only possible solution is through negotiations with the PLO, which in turn will create a momentum toward convening the international conference. This can be realized by means of negotiations between the PLO and Israel, in particular when the Israeli parties whom we met believe that meeting with the PLO does not constitute a problem for them; the Israeli authorities' rejection of such meetings is what annoys them.

As some of the Israelis said, they are searching for a ladder by which the Israeli leadership can climb down from the high tree. Others believe that Rabin's plan may represent such a ladder.

For our part, we pointed out and affirmed to these Israelis that there is no possibility of dealing with this plan because it divides the Palestinian people and does not view them as a single unit, but rather divides them into "inside" and "outside" groups. The plan addresses

the "inside" by giving it some form of self-rule, while it views the "outside" as a refugee problem that should be resolved by the international community and the host countries.

On the significance and the possibility of continuing these meetings in the future, Al-Husayni pointed out that this now depends on the Israeli reaction and on the acute debate among Israeli circles toward this issue.

It has undoubtedly become clear to the Israelis that recognition of the PLO, as an address of the Palestinian people, as well as the need to talk and negotiate with it is inevitable; the question is only a matter of time. [passage omitted]

For his part, Dr Sari Nusaybah, one of the participants in these meetings, pointed out that the meetings that were held do not differ greatly, either in content nor in form, from the Palestinian-Israeli meetings that have taken place in the occupied territories for several years. From the Israeli aspect, the meetings reflect the wish of some Israeli forces and elements to explore the positions of Palestinians on the Arab-Israeli conflict. From the Palestinian aspect, the meetings reflect the desire of Palestinians to clarify the Palestinian peace message expressed by the PNC at its latest session in Algiers.

Dr Nusaybah added: There are no direct or tangible results from these meetings, but there is a continuing attempt to break the monopoly of the Israeli Government over Israeli public opinion. By means of this monopoly, the Israeli Government is trying to deceive Israeli public opinion with regard to the goals of the uprising and the political program adopted by the PLO. What these meetings do, especially if they are held within the framework of specific principles, is to expand the base of supporters within Israel for a peaceful solution based on: 1. The necessity of ending the occupation. 2. The necessity of negotiating with the PLO. 3. The necessity of recognizing the right of the Palestinian people to establish their independent state. [passage omitted]

Regarding the Israeli reaction toward these meetings, Nusaybah pointed out that the splits witnessed in the Israeli arena are tangible evidence of the need to continue these meetings and to expand and develop the Palestinian peace offensive mounted by our people inside and outside. We must keep chasing Weizman, 'Amirav, Shahal, Gur, Beilin, and others. We should develop their positions and expand the base of their supporters. Let us not forget that the path taken by Abba Eban to meet with the PLO in The Hague, as well as by 'Amirav to meet with the PLO in Cairo, and which is being taken by most Israelis to meet with the Palestinian leadership, passed and continues to pass through their initial meetings with Palestinians in the occupied territories who are known for their positions.

Nusaybah concluded his statement by saying: In recent meetings, the Israelis did not present specific positions. They are not authorized to put forward official positions in the first place; rather, they were interested in exploring Palestinian viewpoints on the transition from the current situation to the international conference attended by the PLO. As Palestinians, we are by no means authorized to discuss or accept any proposals. What we hope to do is make Israeli public opinion more amenable to the notion of discussion and dialogue with the "enemy," so that the Israelis will be persuaded that dialogue with Faysal al-Husayni does not ultimately differ from dialogue with Khalid al-Hasan, Nabil Sha'th, or Yasir 'Abd Rabbuh, and that whoever talks with the former can talk with the latter.

Journalists on Meetings

JN2002154289 Jerusalem Television Service in Arabic
1700 GMT 19 Feb 89

[Interview with Palestinian journalists Ziyad Abu Zayyad and Radwan Abu 'Ayyash by radio correspondent Yoni Ben-Menahem—date and place not given]

[Text] [Ben-Menahem] Regarding the recent meeting between figures from Jerusalem and representatives of the Labor Alignment, do the Palestinian figures represent all the Palestinian factions in the territories?

[Abu Zayyad] The Palestinian figures who participated in the meeting have different trends, because these figures maintain different positions. I cannot affirm whether these figures represent all the Palestinian factions. However, it was clear they belong to more than one trend. In fact, the recent conference in Algiers reflected positively on the national unity in the occupied territories for the first time. There is now a national Palestinian grouping comprising more than one trend, and all of them are moving within the framework of the PLO and the policy worked out by the recent PNC session.

[Ben-Menahem] Did you notice whether there were representatives of the Islamic trend or the PFLP, for example?

[Abu Zayyad] I did not notice any representation of the Islamic trend or the PFLP. However, I do not think that the PFLP is against the dialogue.

[Abu 'Ayyash] Why not? They may want to carry a message or explain their positions. I personally believe that what is taking place now will lead to nothing. It is like grinding water and will lead to nothing real. It is the PLO that can negotiate; it is the PLO that can sign everything.

[Ben-Menahem] But the PLO agrees to such meetings?

[Abu 'Ayyash] The PLO encourages dialogue to advance peace, and the PLO rejects negotiations with any Palestinian inside the occupied territories.

[Ben-Menahem] Regarding the recent meetings, do you believe that the PLO agrees to such meetings?

[Abu 'Ayyash] I do not know. The question should be posed to the participants.

[Ben-Menahem] Since Faysal al-Husayni was released, there have been intensive meetings with Israeli figures. Why?

[Abu Zayyad] We cannot say. A meeting was held in the same place between Knesset members from the Labor Party, Ratz, and MAPAM 3 weeks before the release of Faysal al-Husayni. This indicates that Faysal had nothing to do with the meeting. It is true that following the release of Faysal a number of Israeli figures visited him and contacted him. However, dialogue was there and was given momentum recently. I believe that this momentum was because of the growing Palestinian coordination, the Palestinian national unity, and the Palestinian confidence. The Palestinians believe that talking to the Israelis is not treason, departure from the Palestinian ranks, or a relinquishment of Palestinian national rights. I do not believe that the issue is personal.

[Ben-Menahem] Do you believe that the PLO agrees to such meetings?

[Abu Zayyad] The PLO itself meets with Israelis. 'Arafat received Israelis, and Mahmud 'Abbas received Israelis. There had been meetings in Europe between Israelis and Palestinian figures. I believe that the PLO wants to meet with Israelis abroad, and it is Israel that enacted a law against these meetings.

[Ben-Menahem] What do you say about meetings between Palestinian figures with political advisers to the Labor Party?

[Abu 'Ayyash] This question should be directed to them. They may have certain motivations. I do not know.

[Ben-Menahem] What are they?

[Abu 'Ayyash] I do not know. They may believe that they can affect these Israelis and draw them into the Palestinian side.

[Ben-Menahem] What do you think?

[Abu 'Ayyash] I believe that everything should come from the Israeli Government. Everything from the Israeli Government means a political decision.

[Ben-Menahem] Does this mean that the meetings are useless?

[Abu 'Ayyash] I do not believe that these meetings have any political advantage that can give momentum to the Palestinian problem. At the same time, there are trends in Israel, in the Knesset, and in the Israeli Government that the Palestine question can be settled only through negotiations with the PLO.

[Ben-Menahem] Are you trying to persuade Rabin to meet the PLO?

[Abu Zayyad] We are exerting efforts, and I believe that Rabin is changing his position.

Drop in Support for Annexing Territories Noted
TA1702144089 Tel Aviv MA'ARIV in Hebrew
17 Feb 89 p A3

[Text] Some 62 percent of the public are currently not prepared to forgo Israeli control over the territories, a drop from the May 1987 poll that showed that 64 percent held the same view. Since 1987, the relative weight of individuals supporting autonomy for the inhabitants of the territories has risen substantially, while the percentage of those who favor the annexation of the territories and their inhabitants to Israel has steadily declined (from 19 percent in 1987 to 9 percent today). Some 38 percent of the population currently support a concession of parts of the territories within the framework of a territorial compromise with Jordan or the Palestinians, versus 36 percent registered in May 1987.

The majority of Jews believe that the status of the territories should undergo a change. Only 7 percent of them believe that the present state of affairs should remain unchanged. In May 1987, the percentage of those who believed the status quo should be maintained stood at 11 percent. The above emerges from a poll conducted by Dr Rahel Yisre'eli of Modi'in Ezrah'i. The data also indicate that there is a drop in support for "the Jordanian option" and a slight rise in the number of people who regard a territorial compromise with the Palestinians as the solution to regional problems.

Following is the breakdown of the interviewees in May 1987, 1988, and 1989 [figures for 1988 as published]:

	87	88	89
Annexing Judeaea, Samaria, and Gaza to Israel without the local inhabitants	18	13	17
Annexing Judeaea, Samaria, and Gaza with their residents but without granting them citizenship	19	22	9
Annexing Judeaea, Samaria, and Gaza with their residents and granting them citizenship	8	7	4
Preserving the current situation	11	7	7

	87	88	89
Annexing Judeaea, Samaria, and Gaza to Israel without the local inhabitants	18	13	17
Continuing Israeli rule and granting autonomy	8	16	25
Territorial compromise with Jordan	27	31	24
Territorial compromise with Palestinian representation	9	8	14

IDF Adopting New Measures To Reduce Violence
TA2402130089 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew
1200 GMT 24 Feb 89

[Text] Major General Yitzhaq Mordekhay, the commander of the Southern Command, said the IDF is adopting new measures to reduce the level of violence in the Gaza Strip.

Gen Mordekhay told our correspondent Arye Gus that the new measures include revoking the car licenses of riot instigators who work in Israel. The IDF has also revoked night curfews and cut down on the use of curfews in general. The commander of the Southern Command believes that the attempt by leaders of the uprising to raise the level of violence during the 3-day strike last week failed.

Officer: IDF Leaving 'Deep Deposits of Hatred'
TA1702141989 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST
in English 17 Feb 89 p 1

[Report by Benny Morris]

[Text] The IDF's behaviour in the territories "will leave deep deposits of hatred towards Israel among the Palestinians," deeper even than had they lost another war, said Aluf [Major General] Moshe Bar-Kokhba in an interview with THE JERUSALEM POST.

In the most critical public utterance to date by a serving member of the IDF general staff on events in the territories, Bar-Kokhba, who is the chief of general staff's special assistant on training and on evaluating operations, said that these "deposits" will affect the Palestinians for many years, even after a possible settlement is reached.

Bar-Kokhba expressed "deep sorrow" over the killing of Palestinian "women and children" and said: "I believe that the confrontations could have been given a less extreme character."

He also criticized Israel's indifference over the past decades towards the plight of the refugee camp dwellers. "We did not exhibit enough sensitivity towards the refugee camps...and we were not sufficiently sensitive towards (the humiliation) of the workers who travelled

each day to work in Israel." Bar-Kokhba was referring to the daily trial of the workers at Border Police and IDF roadblocks and to their experiences inside Israel.

Nabulus Mayor Only One To Have Resigned
TA2302141689 Tel Aviv MA'ARIV in Hebrew
23 Feb 89 p A8

[Report by Mazal Mu'alem and Yig'al Wielfend]

[Excerpt] "Since the beginning of the uprising in the territories, only 3 of the 88 rural councils in Judea and Samaria have disbanded. While out of 25 mayors, only the mayor of Nabulus has resigned. This proves that the Arabs in Judea and Samaria did not embark on a course to totally break down the municipal authorities."

These facts were disclosed by Brigadier General Shay Erez, head of the Civil Administration in Judea and Samaria, in a seminar on the issue, "The Situation in the Territories and the Political Possibilities," held in Ramat Efal.

Commenting on the question of education, Gen Erez said that as long as there is no atmosphere conducive to studies in the local schools they will continue to be a focus of disturbances. That is why schools should remain closed, "as studies cannot be conducted in a climate of violence."

Referring to the effect of the economic pressure being exerted on the inhabitants, Erez said that it clearly brings about calm in the short term because people are preoccupied with economic troubles and do not have time to take a more active part in the disturbances. In his opinion, however, it is hard to tell whether this trend will continue in the future. "The economic situation of the inhabitants may become so bad in the future that they will be more willing to engage in violence since they will have nothing to lose," Erez said.

Gen Erez went on to say that the attempts of the local population to find substitutes for the civilian authorities failed and the rumors that they were trying to set up a popular army in the territories never came true. From the political point of view, however, the PLO's status in the territories at the moment is indisputable. [passage omitted]

[Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew at 0700 GMT on 23 February adds: "Gen Erez disclosed that the Civil Administration in the territories is recruiting policemen to form a new local police force, and he noted that the main struggle between the administration and the PLO is over control of the residents."]

Firebomb Thrown on Haifa-Nazareth Highway
TA2402132689 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew
1300 GMT 24 Feb 89

[Text] A firebomb was thrown at noon near the village of Yafa, on the Haifa-Nazareth highway. Our correspondent Yo'el Dar reports that the firebomb exploded on the road but did not cause any damage. Two other firebombs were found on the scene. The police have launched an investigation.

IDF Soldier Killed by Stone in Nabulus 24 Feb
TA2402181989 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew
1800 GMT 24 Feb 89

[Text] An IDF soldier was killed in the Nabulus casbah when a large stone was thrown at his head from the roof of a house. The family of the dead soldier has been notified. Our correspondents Arye Gus and Karmela Menashe report that disturbances took place in the area and a group of soldiers tried to disperse the rioters. It is possible that children had intentionally provoked the soldiers on the patrol in order to draw them into the alley of the casbah where the big stone was thrown off the roof.

The IDF soldiers fired at the place from which the stone was hurled, but it is not known whether anybody was hurt. The soldier was critically injured and later died of his wounds. The security forces closed down the area. [Earlier, Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew at 1600 GMT on 24 February had reported that "a curfew was imposed on Nabulus this afternoon in the wake of violent disturbances. The IDF forces dispersed the demonstrators."]

Since the beginning of the intifadah [uprising], 5 soldiers have been killed and 567 soldiers wounded in Judea and Samaria. Of the Jewish civilians there, 8 have been killed and 438 wounded during the intifadah.

Further on Incidents, Casualties in Territories

3 Injured in West Bank

TA2302182889 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew
1700 GMT 23 Feb 89

[Text] A 19-year-old shepherd from the Al-'Aqabah village in Samaria was injured today when an unidentified object exploded. Our correspondent Arye Gus reports that the young man said that when he struck a tin box with his staff it exploded. His condition is described as moderate.

Two residents of Tulkarm were injured today in stone-throwing incidents.

The curfew that was imposed on Qalqilyah this morning to prevent disturbances is still in force.

2 'Terror' Squads Uncovered

TA2302190289 *Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew*
1800 GMT 23 Feb 89

[Text] The security forces and the Jerusalem Police have recently uncovered two terror squads that operated in the vicinity of the capital. One squad operated in Bayt Safafa, and its four members are suspected of throwing firebombs at passing cars on the Pat-Gilo road and of setting a car belonging to the head of the Itri Yeshiva on fire at the beginning of the month.

Our correspondent Moshe Nussbaum reports that the second squad was uncovered in the Ra's al-'Amud and its members are suspected of hurling a firebomb at a Border Police patrol last year and of participating in riots in the Old City.

Gaza High School To Reopen

TA2302201389 *Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew*
1930 GMT 23 Feb 89

[Text] The Civil Administration in the Gaza Strip today authorized the reopening of the Al-Muntabi Girls High School in the village of 'Abasan. The school was closed approximately 2 weeks ago by a Civil Administration injunction after the students participated in disturbances and threw stones at IDF patrols.

7 Wounded in Demonstrations

TA2302210089 *Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew*
2030 GMT 23 Feb 89

[Text] Seven residents of the Gaza Strip were lightly injured today by IDF gunfire while demonstrating and throwing stones at soldiers. Students on their way to school began hurling stones at soldiers early this morning in Gaza, Khan Yunus, and Jabalyah. They were dispersed by the army using tear gas and rubber bullets. No casualties were reported. Disturbances continued throughout the day, and several people were wounded, including three women and a 3-year-old boy.

Further on 23 Feb Disturbances

TA2402111089 *Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST*
in English 24 Feb 89 p 20

[Report by Joel Greenberg and Mikhal Sela']

[Excerpts] Civilians yesterday shot and wounded four Palestinians at Al-'Ayzariyah, east of Jerusalem, after their car was stoned, Palestinians said. Military sources said they had no report of the incident.

According to reports from Al-'Ayzariyah, several minutes after local youths stoned the car as it passed the village, the car returned with another vehicle, and the occupants got out and opened fire at a group of youths, wounding four of them. Two of those wounded in the legs were taken to Al-Maqasid Hospital in East Jerusalem, and the other two were taken away by troops who arrived at the scene.

The incident was the second shooting at Al-'Ayzariyah this week. On Tuesday night, a local man was shot and killed during a brawl with soldiers who, as confirmed by military sources, were disguised as Arabs. [passage omitted]

A curfew was reimposed on the Tulkarm refugee camp after at least two residents were wounded in protests that erupted hours after a previous curfew was lifted. Reports from the camp said demonstrators flew balloons with the Palestinian colours, and when troops shot down the balloons and raided the camp, protesters set up barricades and clashed with the soldiers.

In Nabulus, a 15-year-old boy was hospitalized with a fragment wound in the leg following clashes with soldiers in the old city.

Palestinian employees of the Civil Administration labour office in Nabulus, who announced their resignations Sunday after a firebomb attack on the building, are being forced to travel to work accompanied by soldiers, according to reports from Nabulus. A Civil Administration spokesman denied that the workers were going to their jobs under duress. [passage omitted]

The IDF spokesman reported a regular working day in the Gaza Strip. However, three people were shot and wounded in Al-Shati', Khan Yunus and Tall al-Sultan.

The Civil Administration in Gaza Strip yesterday closed four schools following Wednesday's disturbances. The children had blocked streets with stones and tree branches and taunted military patrols who drove past them. "They did what they have to do," a school principal told THE JERUSALEM POST referring to two of his pupils, who were detained.

Fatah 'Terrorists' Jailed

TA2402143589 *Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew*
1400 GMT 24 Feb 89

[Text] The Lod military court meted out a 30-year prison term to three Fatah terrorists who infiltrated into Israel from the Sinai last year in order to launch a terrorist attack in the Negev. The three admitted they had intended to hijack a bus and take hostages back to Egypt. They were detected by an IDF patrol immediately upon crossing the border and gave themselves up after exchanges of fire.

King Husayn Meets Mubarak, Perez de Cuellar
JN2402133189 Amman Domestic Service in English
1200 GMT 24 Feb 89

[Text] His majesty the king and Egyptian President Husni Mubarak exchanged views during a meeting in Tokyo today on Arab development. The two leaders reviewed recent international moves on the Middle East crisis which included a tour to the region by the European Community delegation. The moves also included the current visit to the region by the Soviet foreign minister which resulted in emphasizing the need to expedite the convening of an international conference for peace in the Middle East to achieve a peace settlement to the crisis.

During the meeting, also held at the guest palace where his majesty is staying, the two leaders discussed aspects of cooperation within the newly proclaimed Arab Cooperation Council.

His majesty the king also received today the United Nations Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar. Discussion during the meeting dealt with the United Nations' effort which led to the resolution of a number of regional and international problems, especially the cease-fire in the Gulf war. Discussion touched on means of implementing the United Nations cease-fire resolution in the Gulf war and the need to establish a permanent peace between Iran and Iraq. The two sides asserted the need to resolve the Middle East crisis which does not only threaten the region but also endangers world peace and security.

His majesty and Mr Perez de Cuellar also underlined the role of the United Nations in establishing just peace in the Middle East through the convening of an international conference to be attended by all parties to the conflict including the PLO. Mr Perez de Cuellar affirmed that the Middle East crisis is on top of efforts he intends to make to pave the way for the convening of an international conference, especially following the PLO acceptance of the United Nations Resolution 242 and 338 and the initiation of the U.S. dialogue with the PLO.

The meeting also focused on the Lebanese crisis and ways of resolving it. His majesty outlined to Mr Perez de Cuellar the objective of the establishment of the Arab Cooperation Council which constitutes a founding stone for overall Arab solidarity. The meeting was attended by the chief of the Royal Court.

'Confederation Agreement' With PLO Planned
JN2302174489 Abu Dhabi AL-ITTIHAD in Arabic
21 Feb 89 p 1

[Text] AL-ITTIHAD has learned that high-level Jordanian-PLO consultations are under way to form a joint committee to draft a confederation agreement between Jordan and the state of Palestine. The agreement will deal with all political, military, cultural, and educational

relations. Informed Palestinian sources in Tunis told AL-ITTIHAD that the two sides have agreed to study this subject following several European, U.S., and Soviet efforts to expedite an international peace conference in the Middle East.

Columnist Justifies Anger Over Rushdie Book
JN2302113489 Amman AL-RA'Y in Arabic
23 Feb 89 p 18

["Every Day" column: "Time of Anger" by Hani al-Su'udi]

[Text] We Muslims read in the Koran every day about what enemies such as Jews, atheists, and hypocrites used to say about the prophet. They have called him a liar, a slanderer, a poet, and a madman. Such reading does not anger us today. Believers were angry in the prophet's times. They supported the prophet with their tongues and swords.

Today, enemies are again insulting the prophet and writing novels and stories in the name of freedom of expression. What is today's world? It is the world of capitalism that is dominated by living on illegal gains, usury, sins, and the enslavement of man by the system's masters and those who monopolize the power of capital, technology, nuclear energy, and information. These are the values that prevail in today's world along with the idealistic teachings of Islam. We, the peoples of the Third World, are the ones who suffer from the evils of the prevailing world system. What is the heart of this Third World?

It is the Islamic world, which was fragmented by the European colonialism of the past and badly exploited by capitalist neo-colonialism. Both types of colonialism gave parts of our sacred lands to their Israeli hirelings. But despite their domination and oppression, the capitalists are uneasy about our nation, because it still preserves in its heart and mind the values of great Islam and the prophet's legacy that can reform the corrupt world.

So it is no surprise that the enemies have now resumed insulting the prophet and humiliating Islam and Muslims and defaming their religion and their values in the name of the capitalist world's freedom of opinion. But we Muslims have the right to be angry and to shed the blood of one who insults the prophet. Indeed we have the right to demand his extradition, to put him on public trial, and to refute his lies and allegations. Did the Jews not do that with their enemies in the name of fighting anti-Semitism? The capitalist world that tolerated this Jewish behavior is denying our anger and protest.

Iraqi Oil Minister Arrives in Amman 21 Feb
JN2102180589 Amman Domestic Service in English
1700 GMT 21 Feb 89

[Text] The Iraqi oil minister, 'Isam 'Abd al-Rahim al-Jalabi, arrived in Amman today on an official visit of several days. Mr al-Jalabi will have talks with Minister of Energy and Mineral Resources Dr Hisham al-Khatib on energy cooperation between Jordan and Iraq. On 21 February in Amman, he will attend a seminar on energy in the Middle East.

Speaking to the JORDANIAN NEWS AGENCY on arriving in Amman, the Iraqi minister commended Jordanian-Iraqi cooperation, particularly in the area of oil exploration, and said that his country was ready to contribute to oil prospecting in the Kingdom.

Meets With Al-Rifa'i

JN2202102489 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0830 GMT
22 Feb 89

[Excerpt] Amman, 22 Feb (INA)—Jordanian Prime Minister Zayd al-Rifa'i met today with the Iraqi oil minister, 'Isam 'Abd al-Rahim, who is currently visiting Jordan.

During the meeting, they discussed relations between the two fraternal countries and ways to expand them. They also discussed energy cooperation between Iraq and Jordan and the coordination of action between them in this field at international forums. [passage omitted]

Al-Rifa'i on ACC, Rescheduling Foreign Debts
JN2302090089 Amman SAWT AL-SHA'B in Arabic
23 Feb 89 pp 1, 10

[Text] London—Prime Minister Zayd al-Rifa'i has said the Arab Cooperation Council (ACC) is not a bloc, front, or alliance against anyone, but an Arab grouping in the wider sense of the word open to any Arab state.

In an interview with the BBC yesterday, the prime minister said the purpose of the ACC is to develop cooperation, solidarity, equality, and integration among Arab states, beginning with economic cooperation and then moving on to other areas.

The prime minister said: The ACC signals a new beginning for Arab cooperation and integration, a beginning that we hope will establish the desired objectives on strong foundations. We have laid the cornerstone for this edifice, and we will do all we can to achieve its objectives, God willing.

Regarding the exchange rate of the Jordanian dinar, the prime minister said: Unfortunately, we have not obtained the amount of Arab aid we had hoped for, which has placed additional burdens and duties on the

Jordanian Government. We had to use foreign currency assets to service our foreign debts in order to maintain Jordan's good record and credibility.

The prime minister said: A few months ago, we reached a point where we could not continue paying all our installments and the interest on them. Therefore, we had to take radical measures to restructure the Jordanian economy in order to rely more and more on ourselves and to pay whatever debts we could. We hoped to reschedule some of them.

The prime minister added: This is a temporary hardship which we hope to overcome because the Jordanian economy is strong, sound, healthy, and improving. It has a solid foundation. We hope that through the efforts of all citizens, who have responded well to the government measures, and with the assistance of our friends in the world and international organizations, we will overcome this temporary phase in record time, God willing.

Soviet Foreign Minister Welcomes ACC

JN2002131889 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic
1200 GMT 20 Feb 89

[Text] USSR Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze has welcomed the establishment of the Arab Cooperation Council [ACC], expressing his country's support for this Arab grouping. He made this statement when he called on His Majesty King Husayn at Al-Nadwah Palace last night.

Al-Qasim Returns, Comments on Kuwait Meetings

JN2302152889 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic
1200 GMT 23 Feb 89

[Text] Amman—Marwan al-Qasim, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, returned to Amman today after participating in the Arab League six-member committee's meetings held in Kuwait to follow up previous contacts and to try, together with the Lebanese parties, to resolve the Lebanese problem.

Al-Qasim told the JORDANIAN NEWS AGENCY that the Kuwait meetings constitute the second stage of the committee's contacts with the Lebanese parties. He said he heard the views of Islamic and Christian spiritual leaders and their analyses of the crisis and how to solve it.

He said the committee decided to continue meeting with the Lebanese parties in order to hear all opinions and proposals and added that the committee will meet with Lebanese political figures in Tunisia next month. The committee will then submit a report on its discussions and progress to the Arab League Council in its 91st ordinary session scheduled for the last week of March in Tunis.

Al-Qasim expressed satisfaction with the cooperation of the Islamic and Christian spiritual leaders and their readiness to facilitate the committee's work. He hoped the committee would be able to carry out its mission, on which the hopes of all Lebanese and the Arab nation are pinned, in order to achieve national accord and to return Lebanon to its normal place and role within the Arab community.

Crown Prince Urges Change in Consumption Pattern
JN2202074789 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English
22 Feb 89 p 1

[Excerpt] Ma'daba (Petra)—His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hasan, the Regent, called on Tuesday for a change in the consumption pattern in Jordan. This is particularly necessary now that the Kingdom is looking forward to dealing with other Arab states within a new concept of regional cooperation designed to create effective and productive development.

Speaking at a celebration to honour municipal councils that won a competition organised by the Ministry of Municipalities and Rural Affairs and the Environment, Prince Hasan said various regional development conferences held in Jordan had opened up a broad gate for responsible dialogue in line with the directives of His Majesty King Husayn. Such meetings, the Regent said, have a comprehensive perspective that encourages constructive differences in opinion with a view to reaching a responsible and collective stand.

The sectoral meetings held in the past months have contributed to strengthening ties and interaction among sectoral projects and helped development planning and economic situations, the Regent said.

Throughout the past decades, the Regent said, Jordan has been able to live up to such challenges through dedicated work to build institutions capable of shouldering the heaviest burdens of responsibility.

The Regent expressed hope that Jordan would be able, through self-control measures, to discuss development and economic policies and chart the path that can correct the economic march by involving the entire society in the decision-making process.

The Crown Prince called for an end to duplication between the perspective of development and the perspective of financial and economic administration, and for a reconsideration of priorities with a view to providing capital for investments in the country.

The creation of three secretaries general councils in the government has placed a major responsibility on the administrative machinery to create a natural interaction between sectors—such as agriculture and food, and health and education—the Regent said.

The Crown Prince stressed the need for evaluation meetings held every three months. [passage omitted]

Commends Economic Measures

JN2302173489 Amman Domestic Service in English
1700 GMT 23 Feb 89

[Text] His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hasan, the regent, today commended the recent economic, financial, and monetary measures adopted by the government, and said they were appreciated by the world monetary and financial institutions, particularly the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund.

His royal highness made the remarks during a meeting today of the Higher Planning Committee he chaired at the Prime Minister's Office this morning.

The crown prince emphasized the need to give further attention, and to encourage the private sector to help set up institutions capable of participating in the economic policy planning.

At the meeting, the minister of planning submitted a report on the government's economic, financial, and monetary programs, and ways which should be followed for implementing these programs.

Hizballah Announces Intent To Kill Rushdie
NC2402174189 Paris AFP in English 1731 GMT
24 Feb 89

[Text] Beirut, Feb 24 (AFP)—The Iranian-backed Hizballah movement said Friday it would do "all that's possible" to execute a death sentence pronounced by Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeyni against British author Salman Rushdie.

Hizballah, or Party of God, added in a statement issued here that Western support for Indian-born Mr. Rushdie, author of the controversial novel "The Satanic Verses", "showed the determination of Western states to deface Islam."

The Moslem fundamentalist group, the statement said, "will do all that's possible to have the honor" and carry out the death sentence against Mr. Rushdie.

The group also called for a demonstration to take place Sunday in Beirut's mostly Moslem Shi'ite southern suburbs to protest the novel—which many Islamic nations consider blasphemous—its authors and its defenders.

Mr. Rushdie has gone into hiding under police protection in Britain since Iranian spiritual leader Khomeyni issued the death sentence February 14 against him and his publishers.

Qabalan Supports Khomeyni Ban on 'Satanic Verses'
NC2402074289 (Clandestine) Voice of the Oppressed
in Arabic to Lebanon 0630 GMT 24 Feb 89

[Text] In an interview with our radio, Shaykh 'Abd al-Amir Qabalan [pro-Amal Movement Shi'ite religious leader] has stated that the publication of "The Satanic Verses" is the ugliest form of agency and mercenariness because the book attacks Islam, the Koran, and the Prophet, may God's prayer and peace be with him.

Shaykh Qabalan indicated that the book's author should have been tried in Britain because he has harmed that state. Shaykh Qabalan expressed the opinion that Imam Khomeyni's edict is a verdict that should be carried out and that no one has the right to question.

Shaykh Qabalan said that Rushdie has created a sedition among states. He called on states, especially Britain, not to hasten to withdraw their diplomats from Iran.

Concluding, Shaykh Qabalan described the book as the crime of this age.

Sha'ban Supports Khomeyni Edict
NC2402075489 (Clandestine) Voice of the Oppressed
in Arabic to Lebanon 0630 GMT 24 Feb 89

[Text] Shaykh Sa'ib Sha'ban, leader of the Islamic Unification Movement, has stated that Imam Khomeyni's edict calling for the shedding of Salman Rushdie's blood

has restored magnificence to Islam. He called on all Muslims to rise and defend their religion instead of finding excuses and accepting insults, such as ignorant agent Najib Mahfuz, who called for peace with Israel and thus deserved the Nobel Peace prize from his nation's enemies.

Al-Huss Welcomes Revival of State Institutions
NC2302153889 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic
1400 GMT 23 Feb 89

[Text] Prime Minister Dr Salim al-Huss has welcomed any step that is taken to reactivate the state institutions and public services. He noted that he has constantly demanded that there be control over the state revenues, of which customs revenues constituted the most important element.

Prime Minister al-Huss chaired a meeting in his office at Government House at noon today attended by acting Army Commander Staff Major General Sami Al-Khatib and Customs Director General Dr Shawqi Sha'ban. Defense Minister 'Adil 'Usayran joined the meeting at 1300. The discussion dealt with measures to control the ports and complete the process of reopening the crossing points.

After the meeting, Prime Minister al-Huss said: I called for this meeting to discuss what can be done to reactivate the customs departments and to control customs revenues on the basis of the measure that has been taken to close the basic gap at Beirut port. This phenomenon of a financial drain began at this port and then spread along the Lebanese coast.

Maj Gen al-Khatib said: The meeting was convened to deal with the measures we have begun so as to impose the legal authority over all the legal and illegal ports and to complete the reopening of the crossings.

Asked whether there is coordination with the parties on the ground to implement such measures peacefully in West Beirut, he said: Those who are supposed to play the role of coordinators must coordinate. I am an army commander and I am doing my duty. There are customs authorities which must carry out their duties with absolute freedom. The army will provide support and protection.

Asked his opinion about the Army taking over Beirut port, Maj Gen Al-Khatib said: There is no doubt that it is a good step, and, God willing, it will be completed.

Franjiyah To Give Port to 'Legitimate' Government
NC2402072289 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic
0615 GMT 24 Feb 89

[Text] Robert Franjiyah [son of former President Sulayman Franjiyah] has decided to hand over the Sil'ata Port in Al-Batrun to the legitimate government. He asked the government to send security forces and customs men to the port.

'Awn Government Decides To Close Illegal Ports
NC2402105989 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic
1015 GMT 24 Feb 89

[Text] Following the meeting that it held this morning, the cabinet [General Michel 'Awn's government] issued the following statement:

The cabinet has decided to close illegal ports and to regulate shipping in Lebanon's territorial waters. It also has instructed the Customs Directorate to resume its activities in various legal ports. The cabinet warns the public against dealing with illegal ports and stresses that any violation of this order will be punishable by law.

Furthermore, the cabinet has decided to open the port crossing [between East and West Beirut] as of Monday morning to facilitate work at the port and to ease congestion at the museum crossing.

In this connection, the cabinet has expressed its satisfaction with the closure of the fifth basin [of Beirut port] and with the expression of readiness to hand over the Sil'ata Port to the state. The cabinet expressed the hope that the other parties concerned will carry out similar positive steps to facilitate the return of the various ports and public utilities to legitimate authority.

'Awn Interviewed on Talks With Lebanese Forces
NC2302065989 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic
0530 GMT 23 Feb 89

[Text] In an interview published by the AL-DIYAR newspaper today, General Michel 'Awn said: We are sacrificing time to spare blood. I am in no hurry because times works in the interests of the state. He affirmed that he has kept the coastal road open in one direction, that is in the direction of Kasrawan.

Gen 'Awn expressed belief that all of the Middle East, and not Lebanon alone, is on the threshold of a final solution. He said: I deal with the Lebanese Forces as a force that exists. They still have a say in any solution.

Gen 'Awn emphasized that he thinks of unification and supports a solution which results from negotiations, saying: I will remove obstacles in the way of such a solution. I am against the joint partnership which was set up in 1943. All those involved in this partnership are stock exchange brokers.

Army Refers Lebanese Forces Personnel to Court
NC2302131189 (Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain in Arabic to Lebanon 1230 GMT 23 Feb 89

[Text] The Army Command in Al-Yarzah has referred 148 detainees from the Lebanese Forces to court for trial on charges of murder, attempted murder, destruction of public property, abduction of military personnel, and

other offenses. The above-mentioned detainees were arrested during the recent clashes between the Army and the Lebanese Forces in East Beirut.

The Army Command also announced a new list of 111 Lebanese Forces members it is detaining, bringing to 259 the total number of Lebanese Forces personnel known to be in its custody.

Army Members Enter Houses, Beat Citizens
NC1802123689 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1145 GMT 18 Feb 89

[Text] The positive climate created was disturbed today in areas in southern Al-Matin. It has been reported that Lebanese Army elements today entered the house of citizen Habib Ja'ja', an official at the Defense Ministry, in the Al-Hadath area, and beat him before taking him to Al-Yarzah.

Meanwhile, in the Kafr Shima area, armed elements entered the house of a citizen of the Habshiti clan, and beat him on the pretext that he was supplying foodstuffs to one of the Lebanese Forces barracks. It also has been learned that citizen Ilyas Ja'Ja', who was wounded in the recent battles, has been prevented from entering Qalb Yasu' Hospital in Al-Hazimiyah for treatment.

In another development, the Lebanese Army today erected a roadblock in the Buick-Badaru area.

Demonstrators Support Army in East Beirut
NC1802142789 (Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain in Arabic to Lebanon 1400 GMT 18 Feb 89

[Text] Some members of the Phalangist forces opened fire at demonstrators in Antilyas today. The demonstrators were marching toward the house of General 'Awn to voice their support for the Army and rejection of the Lebanese Forces' practices. Colonel Michel Abu Rizq, commander of the Republican Guards Brigade, spoke to the demonstrators, stressing the cohesiveness between the Army and the people.

In the area of Al-Rawhaniyah, Al-Hazimiyah, Army units raided the house of Lebanese Forces member Ilyas Ja'ja' and seized a quantity of drugs, two bags full of explosives for rigging booby-trapped cars, four boxes of rockets, a 60-mm mortar, five RPG launchers, wireless and other communication devices, light-caliber weapons, and ammunition.

Lebanese Forces Reportedly Fortify Positions
NC1802183789 (Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain in Arabic to Lebanon 1730 GMT 18 Feb 89

[Text] Citing security sources, the [word indistinct] radio said that the Lebanese Forces are building ramparts in the 'Antibli, Badaru, Al-Ashrafiyah, and 'Ayn al-Rummanah areas. They are also said to be digging ditches in 'Ayn al-Rummanah and fortifying their positions near the B'abda traffic police station.

The Lebanese Forces today transported ammunition in civilian trucks from Jubayl and Yasu' al-Malak to the inner parts of East Beirut. They also brought a convoy of personnel carriers and 10 military vehicles, carrying about 100 militiamen, from Al-Qattarah into East Beirut.

Lebanese Forces personnel were seen manning positions on rooftops in Nahr al-Mawt, Salome, and Sinn al-Fil.

Ja'ja' Aide Succumbs to Wounds From Car Attack
NC2302103089 (Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain
in Arabic to Lebanon 1000 GMT 23 Feb 89

[Text] The number of Phalangists killed when the motorcade of Samir Ja'ja' came under fire in the Jisr al-Basha area while he was on his way to meet with Michel 'Awn in B'abda, has risen to two after George Tawq, an aide to Ja'ja' succumbed to the wounds he sustained in that incident. Another of Ja'ja''s aides, Captain Samir Wadi' of the Lebanese Forces, was killed instantly in the incident.

VOL Reports UNIFIL Soldier Killed
NC2402112989 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic
1115 GMT 24 Feb 89

[Text] A UNIFIL spokesman has stated that an Irish soldier was killed by South Lebanese Army [SLA] soldiers today.

Meanwhile, the SLA has issued a warning to gunmen in Bra'shit and Haddathah, threatening to return the fire occasionally directed at it.

Further on UNIFIL Shooting
NC2402113789 Paris AFP in English 1133 GMT
24 Feb 89

[Excerpt] Tyre, Lebanon, Feb 24 (AFP)—Israeli-backed militiamen Friday shot dead an Irish soldier from the U.N. peacekeeping force in south Lebanon, a spokesman for the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL) said.

South Lebanon Army (SLA) militiamen, from hilltop posts overlooking Haddathah village, opened fire with automatic weapons on a position of the Irish UNIFIL contingent, killing the soldier instantly, Timor Goksel said.

The shooting took place at the northern edge of Israel's "security zone," a narrow strip near the border with Israel that is jointly patrolled by the SLA and Israeli troops. [passage omitted]

Amal, Palestinians Reportedly Fortify Positions
NC2302154689 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon
in Arabic 1445 GMT 23 Feb 89

[Text] A Hizballah official has told the Bayrut News Agency that the Amal Movement is massing troops and fortifying its positions in Iqlim al-Tuffah. The official said that hostilities may break out in that area because the Amal Movement has decided to tighten its control and destroy the military presence of Hizballah there.

The Hizballah official said that Amal brought weapons and ammunition into Iqlim al-Tuffah, particularly Kafr Hattah, in preparation for a new round of fighting. Amal, he said, used the truce to strengthen its positions. The official warned the Amal Movement against launching any adventure in Iqlim al-Tuffah that could amount to collective suicide, as he put it. A delegation from Iqlim al-Tuffah is due to visit Damascus in the next 2 days to brief Syrian officials on the existing conditions there.

In another development, Amal Movement sources in the south say that Fatah supporters of Yasir 'Arafat are building a network of tunnels in Al-Rashidiyah camp for storing large quantities of weapons. The same sources say that it is not unlikely that Fatah would extend the tunnels to points outside the camp in order to facilitate the flow of weapons and personnel and thus consolidate its military position in the Tyre area in case its agreement with the Amal Movement should collapse.

Syrians Raid Hizballah Arms Depots in Suburb
NC2402151789 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon
in Arabic 1445 GMT 24 Feb 89

[Text] A high-ranking Hizballah source has told the Bayrut News Agency that Syrian forces raided three arms depots belonging to Hizballah in the southern suburb at dawn today. The first depot was in Bi'r al-'Abd, near the Al-'Aris area, the second was in Al-Ghubayrah, near the old home of Shaykh Muhammad Husayn Fadlallah, and the third was in Al-Raduf, near the combat school.

'Forces of the Free Arab' Attack Syrian Position
NC2302202089 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon
in Arabic 1945 GMT 23 Feb 89

[Text] An organization calling itself the Forces of the Free Arab [quwwat al-hurr al-j'arabi] has contacted Radio Free Lebanon and claimed responsibility for a hand-grenade attack at 1920 today against a center of the Syrian occupation forces in the Quraytim area, near the [name indistinct] club in West Beirut. The organization said that the attack left a number of casualties among the Syrian soldiers in the center.

DFLP Claims 3 Israeli Soldiers Injured in Clash
NC2302210589 (Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain
in Arabic to Lebanon 2000 GMT 23 Feb 89

[Text] The DFLP announced this afternoon that one of its groups had attacked an Israeli enemy patrol at the Zar'it settlement road junction. It said that a clash took

place between the members of the group and the occupation soldiers, involving the use of various types of machineguns, hand grenades, and anti-armor rockets, and that Lahd militiamen intervened in support of the Israeli force. The statement added that the operation left the three members of the group martyred and three Israeli soldiers wounded. In addition, two Lahd militiamen were killed and five injured, the statement said.

Commentary Views Shevardnadze Talks, USSR Ties
JN2302171889 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic
1230 GMT 23 Feb 89

[Station commentary]

[Text] Esteemed listeners: There has recently been a resurgence of international and regional interest in the Middle East issue. The question of an international conference to promote a just and comprehensive solution to this vexing regional problem has again come to the fore. Except in Israel, this new interest has been universally welcomed. Once again, everyone realizes that the Israelis, not the Arabs, stand in the way of peace. It should surprise nobody that Israel has acted as it has, since the experience of the past 40 years shows that the will of the international community and of Israel to attain a Mideast peace are as far apart as ever.

The past 40 years have also demonstrated that concessions made to aggressors by their victims or by the United Nations and the international community only lead to recalcitrance on the part of the former. Direct talks between the aggressors and their victims, between the occupying power and the occupied peoples, between those who support international conventions and those who rebel against them, can hardly be the route to a just peace.

If the international conference option has the most support now, this is not to say that the parley is an end in itself. Neither is it an Arab invention. It was initiated by the United Nations as a way of giving teeth to its resolutions and promoting a just and lasting Mideast peace. If the international conference is to fulfill the will of the world community, it must be effective, authoritative, and predicated on relevant UN resolutions and principles. If, on the other hand, the conference is to be a sham to force the wronged parties to accept the aggressors' terms, it will be doomed.

UN principles and resolutions and international law favor the peoples' fight for their freedom and independence. How far any given nation honors these principles will be the litmus test of its identification with the countries of the region. The extent of a nation's ability to influence the course of events in the region and play a positive role in the peace process will depend on its commitment to these principles.

Eduard Shevardnadze has had important talks with President Hafiz al-Asad and other senior Syrian officials as part of continuing consultations between the two friendly nations at the highest levels. The Damascus talks have shown Shevardnadze that Syria still maintains its principles, which are in keeping with the UN Charter and resolutions and the peoples' right to freedom and self-determination. Syria also demonstrated to the Soviet foreign minister its eagerness to maintain traditionally close ties with the USSR in bilateral relations and in the interests of regional and world peace.

Syria has always favored and will continue to favor an equitable peace and the international conference. The country also champions the rights of peoples to freedom, independence, and self-determination. Syria has always supported serious attempts to establish a just and comprehensive peace in the Middle East, and has sincerely backed all international endeavors and initiatives toward this end. These efforts and initiatives have failed because the aggressors and occupiers, along with their allies, have not cooperated. They have sought instead to derail initiatives and exploit them to give legitimacy to occupation, expansion, and lawlessness.

In light of the most recent political moves in the region, the idea of letting a single power hold complete control and all the cards to a settlement has now passed. The Middle East is no one's exclusive protectorate, nor any single power's sphere of influence. No one can decide its fate on its behalf. Nor can anyone lay claim to rights without legal, legitimate, geographic, historical, or moral foundations. Henceforth, no single power can claim sole, exclusive rights to finding a solution. If some had made such claims in the past, they have now proved untenable, as have all attempts to force domination on certain parties in the region through separate deals.

If a just solution is to be reached and regional stability promoted, there is no escaping complete recognition of the inalienable rights of peoples' independence, freedom, and self-determination. Whoever obstructs such rights will remain outside the circle of influence and action. The masses in the region have a will of their own and cherish their rights. Geographical and historical facts are created by this nationalist and pan-Arab resolve, which will always hold the key to a solution. Any decisive settlement in the region will have to reflect the will of the masses.

Vice President Receives Bulgarian Officials
JN2102163489 Damascus SANA in Arabic 1450 GMT
21 Feb 89

[Text] Damascus, 21 Feb (SANA)—Vice President Muhammad Zuhayr Mashariqah received here today Lyubomir Popov, Bulgarian deputy minister of foreign affairs and chairman of the Bulgarian Religious Cults Committee; and S. Khadzhiev, regional mufti of Bulgarian Muslims, and his delegation. During the meeting, talks centered on the cordial relations between Syria and Bulgaria and the role of religious men in the struggle against Zionism and imperialism.

Talas Receives CSSR Trade Minister, General
JN1402205489 Damascus Television Service in Arabic
1830 GMT 14 Feb 89

[Text] General Mustafa Talas, deputy commander in chief of the Army and Armed Forces, deputy prime minister, and defense minister, received in his office this evening Jan Sterba, CSSR minister of foreign trade; and General Jan Sedik, deputy chief of staff of the Czechoslovak People's Army, and the accompanying delegation.

The meeting was attended by the CSSR ambassador in Damascus. Their talks concerned the strong and friendly relations between Syria and the CSSR and ways to develop and strengthen them.

State Minister Meets With Canadian Delegation

JN1902154289 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic
1415 GMT 19 Feb 89

[Text] Nasir Qaddur, minister of state for foreign affairs, received in Damascus this morning Daniel Dewar, Canadian deputy defense minister, and the delegation accompanying him. The meeting was attended by the director of the American department at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Major General 'Adnan Tayyarah, the Canadian ambassador in Damascus, and the Canadian military attache.

Talks centered on Lebanon and the overall situation in the Middle East.

Khalid 'Abd al-Nasir Greets Al-Asad on Unity Day

JN1802090989 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic
0815 GMT 18 Feb 89

[Text] President Hafiz al-Asad has received a message of salutation and congratulation from Dr Khalid Jamal 'Abd al-Nasir (son of Jamal 'Abd al-Nasir) on the occasion of the 31st anniversary of unity between Egypt and Syria. 'Abd al-Nasir said that Arab history records with deep appreciation the firm pioneering role of the Arab people in Syria in carrying the pan-Arab banner and making sacrifices for its sake. With similar deep appreciation, history records the steadfastness of Arab Syria in the trenches of confrontation.

Dr Khalid 'Abd al-Nasir said in his message: As the anniversary of unity day approaches, I direct my feelings and thoughts toward Arab Syria, eager to observe the Arab unity anniversary once again on the soil of immortal experience, and amid the masses that have sacrificed themselves for this unity.

Paper Decries 'Zionist Influence' in Lebanon

JN2002155089 Damascus SANA in Arabic 0830 GMT
20 Feb 89

[Excerpt] Damascus, 20 Feb (SANA)—It has been clear from the outset that the partitionists, led by the Ja'ja' gang, have sought, by obstructing Lebanon's presidential election and parliamentary session, to create a constitutional vacuum. They will then proceed to destroy legitimacy and conspire to extend Zionist influence in Lebanon, backed by the Zionist enemy and the Iraqi regime, TISHRIN says.

Headlined "The Zionist Influence in Lebanon Must Be Eradicated," an editorial in today's edition of the paper adds: Increasingly isolated as a result of a mounting siege laid by the nationalist forces, and especially since the Arab committee decided to support a political settlement within the framework of national accord, this clique has tried to liquidate General 'Awn's forces, which are part of the Lebanese Army that refuses to be used as a tool for carrying out Zionist plans in Lebanon.

The paper notes the Ja'ja' clique's ugly, terrorist record of extorting protection money, sponsoring prostitution, and advancing Zionist interests, as revealed in 'Awn's files. It is, therefore, in the interest of national accord and of blocking the scheme to partition Lebanon that there should be a crackdown on Zionist influence in East Beirut, says TISHRIN. [passage omitted]

Afghanistan

Mujadeddi, Sayyaf Win Shura Government Vote
BK2302163689 Hong Kong AFP in English 1629 GMT 23 Feb 89

[Text] Rawalpindi, Pakistan, Feb 23 (AFP)—Moderate resistance leader Sibghatullah Mujadeddi and fundamentalist 'Abdul Rasul Sayyaf were declared president and prime minister of an interim Afghan rebel government by an assembly meeting here late Thursday, Pakistani television reported.

The vote by more than 400 delegates to the assembly, or shura, would end a bitter two-week deadlock among the seven resistance groups based in Pakistan. The unofficial results were announced by Pakistan television.

The resistance says the government will take over in Afghanistan following the collapse of the Moscow-backed government in Kabul, which the resistance says will come soon.

'Interim Government' Portfolios
BK2402025389 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 0200 GMT 24 Feb 89

[Text] The Afghan alliance consultative council, the shura, has announced the interim government to replace the puppet regime in Kabul. Prof Sibghatullah Mujadeddi has been elected as president and Prof 'Abdul Rasul Sayyaf as prime minister of the interim government. The shura announced in Islamabad yesterday evening that according to the agreed procedure, Prof Sibghatullah Mujadeddi came out on the top by winning 174 votes, while Prof Sayyaf got 173—only one vote less than Mujadeddi.

The shura announced that according to the formula, the party winning the maximum number of votes will get the post of president as well as the Ministry of Health, while the party winning the second position will get the post of prime minister and also the Ministry of Communication.

The names of others who have been elected for various ministries are as follows: Mawlawi Muhammad Nabi Muhammadi, who got 139 votes, has been given the Supreme Court and the Ministries of Finance and Education; Gulbuddin Hikmatyar, the Ministries of Defense, Scientific Research, and Agriculture; Yunis Khalis, the Ministries of Interior, Hajj and Aqwaf; and Prof Burhanuddin Rabbani has been assigned the Ministries of Foreign Affairs, Tribal Areas, and Justice.

AFP Profiles New Premier

BK2402014189 Hong Kong AFP in English 2023 GMT 23 Feb 89

[Text] Rawalpindi, Pakistan, Feb 23 (AFP)—Abdul Rasul Sayyaf, who was declared premier of an interim Afghan rebel government by an assembly meeting here late Thursday [23 February], is the most controversial of the seven Pakistan-based mujahidin leaders.

Mr. Sayyaf, 49, an Islamic fundamentalist close to the most radical rebel leader Gulbuddin Hikmatyar, is supported by the Pakistan military and receives substantial financial backing from Saudi Arabia and on a lesser scale from Kuwait.

Moderates in the resistance have accused the leader of the seven-party alliance's Etehad-e Eslami faction of being able to recruit inside Afghanistan only thanks to the money he gets from Saudi Arabia. His party's guerrillas are well-equipped but play a relatively small role inside Afghanistan.

Born in Paghman, north of Kabul, in 1940, Mr. Sayyaf was educated at the Al-Azhar University in Cairo where he was heavily influenced by the Moslem Brotherhood.

He later became a theology professor at Kabul University and was arrested in 1973, when Muhammed Da'ud was president, and held in the capital's Pol-e Charki prison.

Released in 1980, he joined the Sunni Moslem resistance factions based at Peshawar in northwest Pakistan. His party was formed in 1983.

Mr. Sayyaf, who is an excellent orator in Arabic, is regarded as the leader most opposed to the participation in an interim rebel government of the eight Iran-based Shi'ite resistance groups.

AFP Profiles New President

BK2402020189 Hong Kong AFP in English 2020 GMT 23 Feb 89

[Text] Islamabad, Feb 23 (AFP)—Sibghatullah Mujadeddi, the man who won the most votes Thursday [23 February] at an Afghan resistance assembly meeting here and became the president-elect of an interim Afghan rebel government, is a theology professor known for his pro-monarchist views.

The head of the moderate Afghan National Liberation Front (ANLF), Mr. Mujadeddi is an ethnic Pashtun, the majority community in Afghanistan. He is also a member of a religious family which enjoys a great deal of respect inside Afghanistan.

Politically he is considered as a moderate to conservative traditionalist who has shown tolerance.

Perhaps most important, according to some diplomats he has benefitted for the past few months from considerable aid from the United States.

Mr. Mujaddedi, 64, studied Islamic law at Al-Azhar University in Cairo and returned to Kabul to teach theology. It was there that he was imprisoned between 1959 and 1964 for taking part in a plot to kill Soviet leader Nikita Khrushchev during a visit to the Afghan capital.

He then worked at the Saudi Embassy in Kabul before becoming director of the Islamic Centre in Copenhagen.

Two communist Afghan presidents, Nur Muhammad Taraki and Hafizullah Amin executed 96 male members of his family after 1978, experts say.

Mr. Mujaddedi, who speaks Pushtu, Persian, Arabic and English, is known as the only moderate leader who can stand up to Gulbuddin Hikmatyar, the most radical fundamentalist leader in the Pakistan-based Afghan resistance.

He tried to give Afghan Shi'ite Moslems based in Iran 100 seats at the assembly, or shura, but was overruled by the four Sunni fundamentalist groups.

His party is said to receive most of its support from religious schools and from pro-royalist tribes in southern Afghanistan.

Iran-Based Spokesman on Political Developments
LD2302155189 Tehran IRNA in English 1400 GMT
23 Feb 89

[Text] Tehran, Feb. 23, IRNA—Spokesman of Iran-based Afghan mujahidin Muhammad Karim Khalili said the anti-Kabul guerrillas were now safely stationed in Paghman, northwest of Kabul, and about to liberate the capital.

But Khalili who was giving an interview to local and foreign reporters here Thursday ruled out the likelihood of a political solution of the Afghan issue without the participation of the mujahidin based in Iran.

The eight-member coalition in Iran and the seven member alliance in Pakistan had signed an agreement on their representation in the mujahidin consultative council, or shura, but was later vetoed.

"Certain Afghan parties in Pakistan had retracted the agreement mainly as a result of insinuations by certain foreign powers," he remarked.

Khalili and other senior officials of the Iran-based coalition boycotted the shura after their demand of 100 seats in the shura was refused. They were offered 70.

He had documents evidencing designs by the United States and other governments to pit Shi'ites against Sunnis in Afghanistan, and antagonizing the mujahidin in Pakistan, and Iran.

Khalili cited a document by the U.S. consulate general in Peshawar which claimed that the Americans would not tolerate to see their investments in Afghanistan destroyed.

Kabul Regime Creating 'Artificial Famine'
LD2302180289 Tehran IRNA in English 1745 GMT
23 Feb 89

[Text] Mashhad, Khorasan Prov., Feb. 23, IRNA—The Kabul regime has created an artificial famine in the country especially in the besieged capital in a bid to vilify revolutionary forces and to weaken the people's resolve, revealed an authentic mujahidin source today.

The granaries at Kabul are literally overflowing, said the source who preferred to remain anonymous and added that the artificial scarcity is part of a psychological and propaganda warfare of the Soviet-installed against the mujahidin who are on the brink of a spectacular victory. [sentence as received]

"The regime's claim of appointing eight ministers who are not Communist Party members is a lie," he said, dismissing the move as sheer propaganda "because it is impossible for anybody to assume official post unless he is a communist and holds membership in the 'KHAD' the notorious Afghan intelligence organisation. [quotation marks as received]

In its desperate bid to stave off total collapse, the Kabul regime is claiming "foreign military interference" especially by Pakistan and is clumsily trying to introduce itself as "peace-loving and Islamic," he noted.

Situation Deteriorates
BK2402031089 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu
0200 GMT 24 Feb 89

[Text] Reports from Afghanistan say the law and order situation in Kabul has further deteriorated and the Kabul regime troops are conducting around the clock house searches, looting the householders, and hauling them for forcible conscription. Eight householders have been killed in this operation. The vested interests are depriving the city people of cash, valuable goods, and food. There are reports of clashes between the armed members of the ruling party and other persons as well.

Meanwhile, the Afghan mujahidin are reportedly preparing to launch a massive attack on Jalalabad, while the Kabul regime is trying to strengthen the defense of the city.

Wheat, Flour Supplies 'Critical'

*BK2402061489 Hong Kong AFP in English 0600 GMT
24 Feb 89*

[By Alain Boebion]

[Text] Kabul, Feb 24 (AFP)—Supplies of wheat and flour have plunged to critical levels in the Afghan capital where the military have benefitted most from the meagre rations doled out by the government, informed sources said.

Stocks of the essential items had fallen Thursday to their lowest level since the start of the year, the sources said, citing figures provided by the government. They said food supplies to Kabul had declined since the completion of the Soviet troop withdrawal on February 15 and the end of Soviet supply flights to the capital.

Wheat and flour stocks last month were around 1,000 tonnes, but on Thursday had plunged to 7.7 tonnes.

Since February 14, only two convoys carrying 102 tonnes of food had arrived here from the Soviet Union along the strategic Salang highway, officials said. They said these were the only fresh supplies to have reached Kabul since the Soviet pullout and added that two Soviet cargo planes seen here on Monday were not carrying food.

While Soviet sources had said here two days before the withdrawal that Moscow would keep open an aerial link to Kabul beyond February 15, they later said they were not so sure.

Daily rations of wheat and flour for the capital were down to 308 tonnes on Wednesday compared with 750 tonnes in normal circumstances, informed sources. As has been the case for several weeks, state shops catering to government and ruling Communist Party and military leaders have not been affected by the rationing.

According to official figures, on Tuesday, two days after a state of emergency came into effect, some 52.5 tonnes of the 75 tonnes of wheat distributed here were allocated to the Armed Forces, 15 tonnes to government organisations and a mere 7.5 tonnes to hospitals. About 140 tonnes of flour out of 233 tonnes went to selected small bakeries where bread is exchanged for coupons, and 93 tonnes to state cooperatives.

No flour was released to the commercial market, informed sources said.

But observers said Kabul did not seem gripped by a complete food shortage. "The siege of the capital by the Afghan resistance is not total. Food is arriving from the north and east of Kabul," a diplomat said.

Fruit, vegetables and meat were available in small markets and in the main bazaar. Quantities varied with the fortunes of the trucks coming from eastern Jalalabad and the Pakistani border, some 200 kilometers (125 miles) to

the east. But food supply was a persistent problem for poor and needy families, especially those with no links to the government, the military or the ruling People's Democratic Party of Afghanistan.

The numbers speak for themselves. Given an average monthly salary in Kabul of about 4,500 afghanis (80 U.S. dollars), a kilogram (2.2 pounds) of mutton, costing 800 Afghanis, represents a week's work, and a kilo of butter, three or four days. A day's work would buy a kilo of apples or tangerines, the only fruit available, and many Kabul residents would have to work half a day to afford a loaf of bread.

Commercial Chicken Street offers a surreal contrast. There those who can afford it can pay fabulous prices for jam and marmelade from Britain, U.S. household and dental products, French mustard, Hungarian champagne and Soviet vodka and caviar. But Chicken Street merchants were grim, diplomats and most other Westerners having left, apart from a priest and a few United Nations and Red Cross officials. Soviet soldiers, "who weren't very good customers," they said, had also gone home.

Business is more and more depressed with prices going up each day and supplies, often from Pakistan, at the mercy of the situation.

Tanay Congratulates Yazov on Anniversary

*LD2302180589 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto
1530 GMT 23 Feb 89*

[Text] A message of congratulations has been sent from Lieutenant General Shahnawaz Tanay, defense minister of the Republic of Afghanistan, to Dmitriy Yazov, defense minister of the Soviet Union, on the occasion of the 71st founding anniversary of the Soviet Union Army and Navy forces.

Najibullah Sends Message to Egypt's Mubarak

*LD2302175189 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari
1600 GMT 23 Feb 89*

[Text] Esteemed Najibullah, president of the Republic of Afghanistan, has sent the following message to Cairo addressed to His Excellency Husni Mubarak, president of Egypt:

In explaining the all-round efforts of the Republic of Afghanistan to restore peace and security, in particular to observe completely the text and spirit of the Geneva accords, the message states that a number of countries, particularly Pakistan, in open violation of these accords and all international accepted norms, has continuously interfered in the internal affairs of the Republic of Afghanistan.

These interventions have seriously endangered peace and stability in the Republic of Afghanistan—an Islamic, nonaligned, and neutral country—and are the cause for the continuation of fratricidal war in Afghanistan.

Under the present circumstances, where suitable grounds are available for the creation of a government with broad bases by dialogue and talks among Afghans themselves, a cessation of intervention from abroad could be effective for the restoration of peace as soon as possible.

The message expresses hope that Egypt, by using its political influence, will draw the attention of the parties to Geneva accords, to the fulfillment of their commitments, and play an effective role for the restoration of peace and stability in the Republic of Afghanistan and in the region.

Najibullah Holds Talks With GDR Ambassador
LD1702094189 Kabul BAKHTAR in English
0451 GMT 17 Feb 89

[Text] Kabul, Feb. 16, BAKHTAR—Najibullah, president of the Republic of Afghanistan received here today Kraft Bumble, ambassador of the German Democratic Republic, GDR.

During the meeting, the ambassador of GDR handed over to President Najibullah the message of the official spokesman of his government. The message expresses confidence to the further consolidation of the friendly relations between the two countries and assured President Najibullah of the continuing efforts of the GDR for seeking new ways of expanding their relations.

The complete return of the Soviet soldiers from Afghanistan according to the established time-frame demonstrated that the Soviet Union and the Republic of Afghanistan have been fully abiding by the provisions of Geneva agreements concluded on April 14, 1988 on Afghanistan, said the message.

Now it's up to the other sides concerned, said the message of the spokesman of the GDR, to take constructive measures for the political solution of the situation around Afghanistan as well as for the establishment of a broad-based government in Afghanistan. The GDR spokesman has said in his message that the restoration of a stable peace in Afghanistan requires political compromise for which the RA [Republic of Afghanistan] has demonstrated its interests several times.

Presidential Decree on Hazara Affairs
LD2402080989 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari
1600 GMT 23 Feb 89

[Presidential Decree No 526, dated 23 February 1989—read by announcer]

[Text] Decree issued by the Afghan president on the creation of a Mobilization Center for the Hazara Nationality Within the Framework of the Commission for Organizing Work With the Hazara Nationality:

In order to carry out the aims of the national reconciliation policy in the central regions inhabited by the Hazaras, a center for mobilizing Hazara affairs should be formed. The center should consist of worthy and influential personalities of that nationality, within the framework of the Commission for Organizing Work With the Hazara Nationality.

The Council of Ministers of the Republic of Afghanistan is herewith commissioned to take the necessary measures concerning the structure and budget of the Mobilization Center for the Hazara nationality.

[Signed] Najibullah, President of Afghanistan

Najibullah Issues Decree Promoting Officers
LD2002140189 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari
1600 GMT 19 Feb 89

[Text] Based on a decree by Esteemed Najibullah, president of Afghanistan, the following officers were promoted as a result of showing merit in fulfilling their duties and implementing the national reconciliation policy:

Ghulam Faruq, son of Shah Muhammad, from the rank of brigadier general to the rank of major general; 'Abdul Sattar, son of 'Abdul Ghafur, from the rank of colonel to the rank of brigadier general; Shahbaz, son of Shazada, from the rank of colonel to the rank of brigadier general.

National Assembly To Convene 25 Feb
LD2302161289 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari
1330 GMT 23 Feb 89

[Text] Announcement by the Milli Shura of the Republic of Afghanistan: In accordance with Article 85 of the Constitution of the Republic of Afghanistan, the routine session of the Milli Shura of Afghanistan has begun. Esteemed members of the Milli Shura are requested to convene at 0900 at the Milli Shura Hall on Saturday, 7 Hout 1367 [25 February].

Pakistani Envoy Summoned Over Violations
LD2302163989 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto
1430 GMT 23 Feb 89

[Text] The charge d'affaires of the Pakistani Embassy in Kabul was summoned to the Foreign Ministry this afternoon and a strong protest from the Government of the Republic of Afghanistan was conveyed to him by the acting head of the First Political Department.

According to a report by responsible authorities of the country's security forces, on 4 February, 1,500 Pakistani militiamen, headed by Fadlallah, were stationed at the border region of Sarkani District, Konarha Province. Some 300 of them have been sent to the China area, Sarkani District and are trying, along with the extremists, to embark on an armed attack on Jalalabad city.

The Government of the Republic of Afghanistan strongly condemns this violation by the Pakistani authorities of the Geneva accords and other international accepted norms and states its severe protest. It demands that they should put an end to such open violations and interference, otherwise the responsibility for their grave consequences will rest with the Pakistani authorities.

Security Forces Seize Weapons, Explosives

*LD2302160189 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari
1330 GMT 23 Feb 89*

[Text] The Armed Forces of the country today seized a quantity of explosives, mines, and ammunition which had been stored in parts of Shiwaki District by the armed extremist groups for the purpose of creating terror and intimidation.

The BIA military section reports that these substances, which include 40 kg of explosives, 18 antipersonnel mines, 20 hand grenades, 5 boxes of heavy-machinegun ammunition, and 24 mortar shells, were stored at Koh-e Sahak, Shiwaki, by elements belonging to the Gulbuddin extremist group in order to be launched to intimidate various populated areas of Kabul city.

According to another report, two terrorists belonging to the extremist groups were captured around Kabul city along with their weapons.

Military Situation in Provinces Detailed

*LD2302225389 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari
1600 GMT 23 Feb 89*

[Text] The situation was normal in most of the provinces during the past 24 hours, and the units and subunits of the Armed Forces carried out their normal activities and daily training in their places of deployment. In some regions the extremist warmongering groups attempted to disrupt security. Their attempts were foiled as a result of defensive activities by the Armed Forces, which inflicted crushing blows on them.

Quoting an Armed Forces spokesman, the BAKHTAR military section reported the following concerning the military situation:

Qandahar: The extremists, on the instruction of their Pakistani masters, have fired on the security posts, residential regions around the airport, and areas of Daman District in order to disrupt the security of the people in Qandahar Province, martyring one inhabitant and injuring two members of the security forces.

The units and subunits stationed in these regions have inflicted crushing blows on the plunderers by opening artillery fire, as a result of which seven of the extremists were crushed and another three, carrying weapons, were arrested by the security forces. One mortar, one DShK,

and one artillery were destroyed. One motor vehicle, 4 surface-to-surface missiles, 6 light weapons, and 10 boxes of various ammunition were seized by the security forces.

Herat: As a result of preemptive mopping-up operations carried out in a number of villages attached to Gozara District, 11 of the extremists were killed, and 11 boxes of ammunition for Kalashnikovs, 2 boxes of mortar mines, 16 [word indistinct] rockets, 11 boxes of DShK's ammunition, and 5 boxes of antitank mines were seized. Seven various weapons, one launching unit for surface-to-surface missiles, two rocket launchers, and six strong positions of the enemy were destroyed. One security man was also martyred.

The other report adds that the extremists, protected by the militarists of Pakistan, have fired on the security posts and residential regions along the Kabul-Nangarhar highway which was answered with the artillery fire, killing six of the warmongers and injuring another 11.

The situation was normal in other provinces of the country.

According to another report, the patriotic and courageous youths of the country are continuously joining the ranks of the Armed Forces; 465 youths have listed their names in the units of the Armed Forces in the capital and provinces during the past 24 hours.

'Extremists' Clash in Alingar District 23 Feb

*LD2302181289 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari
1600 GMT 23 Feb 89*

[Text] Internecine clashes among the extremist groups took place today in the area surrounding Alingar District in Laghman Province. BAKHTAR's military section reports that as a result of these clashes near Qasabeh, Laghman Province, five people from both sides were killed and three others injured.

The report adds that four local people were injured in the course of these clashes, and a number of houses were either damaged or destroyed.

Bangladesh

Chinese Flood Experts Meet Irrigation Minister

*BK2002130589 Dhaka Overseas Service in English
1230 GMT 20 Feb 89*

[Text] The leader of the visiting Chinese experts group on flood control, Wang Shouqiang, says they will study ways of reducing the menace of floods in Bangladesh. He said this when he met the irrigation and flood control minister, Mahbubur Rahman, in Dhaka on Sunday. During the meeting, they discussed matters relating to mutual interest and benefit, with particular emphasis on water management and flood control measures.

The Chinese experts group in their 3-week stay will visit some of the flood-hit areas and irrigation projects in the country. They will also have extensive talks with concerned officials.

Agreement Signed for Jute Exports to USSR
BK2102134189 Dhaka Overseas Service in English
1230 GMT 21 Feb 89

[Text] Bangladesh will export jute goods worth about 150 million taka to the Soviet Union. An agreement to this effect was signed in Dhaka yesterday.

Turkish Premier in Dhaka En Route to Tokyo
BK2202015489 Dhaka Domestic Service in English
0110 GMT 22 Feb 89

[Text] Prime Minister Turgut Ozal of Turkey made a brief stopover at the Zia International Airport this morning. He was on his way to Tokyo to attend the funeral of Hirohito. Prime Minister Moudud Ahmed received the Turkish leader at the airport. The Turkish prime minister was accompanied by his wife Madame (Samra Ozal). Two children presented bouquets to the distinguished guests.

Talking to newsmen, Mr Turgut Ozal conveyed his best wishes to the brotherly people of Bangladesh, for whom, he said, the Turkish people have a tremendous amount of love and goodwill. Mr Ozal also expressed his firm belief that the bilateral trade and economic relations would develop further between the two countries in future.

India

Venkataraman Meets With President Bush in Tokyo
BK2302150289 Delhi Domestic Service in English
1430 GMT 23 Feb 89

[Text] The president, Mr R. Venkataraman, and the U.S. President, Mr George Bush, held talks in Tokyo today. The two presidents arrived in the Japanese capital this morning to attend the funeral tomorrow of Emperor Hirohito, who died on the 7th of January last after prolonged illness.

AIR's special correspondent, John Churchill, reporting from Tokyo says that newsmen who converged in Tokyo have attached great importance to the discussions between the presidents of India and the United States.

Earlier, Mr Venkataraman called on Emperor Akihito, the son and successor of Emperor Hirohito, at his palace. Empress Michiko also greeted Mrs Janaki Venkataraman.

Mr Venkataraman personally conveyed India's condolence to the emperor. The president then met the Japanese prime minister, Mr Takeshita, who thanked the Indian Parliament for expressing its sorrow at the death of Emperor Hirohito.

The Japanese emperor and prime minister have been invited to visit India.

Turkish President Evren Continues Visit

Meets With Commerce Minister
TA2302144489 Ankara Domestic Service in Turkish
1100 GMT 23 Feb 89

[Necati Berker report]

[Text] President Kenan Evren met in New Delhi today Indian Commerce Minister Dinesh Singh. The necessity of increasing trade relations within the framework of the existing economic potential was discussed during the meeting, in which Foreign Minister Mesut Yilmaz also participated.

According to the minister, India is interested in buying lentils from Turkey as well as other legumes. India also called for a new meeting of the joint economic committee and expressed its desire to carry out the electrification and signalization project of the Irmak-Zonguldak railroad as the Sincan-Eskisehir railroad, whose bid it has already won.

During the meeting, Turkey, in turn, asked India to initiate a shipping service between the two countries.

Later, Evren visited the National Immunology Institute where he was briefed on the work carried out there. According to information provided, the institute works for the prevention of maladies through vaccination. It also carries out research work on family planning and the transfer of embryos in a bid to improve the genes of livestock.

Departs Delhi for Agra
BK2302160689 Delhi Domestic Service in English
1530 GMT 23 Feb 89

[Text] The Turkish president, Mr Kenan Evren, was given a ceremonial send off at Rashtrapati Bhawan [President's House] by the prime minister, Mr Rajiv Gandhi, and his cabinet colleagues at the end of his 2-day stay in the capital.

Talking to newsmen before his departure for Agra, Mr Evren said he is confident that relations between the two countries will further improve following his visit.

Iraqi Envoy Arrives With Message for Gandhi
*JN2302100089 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0830 GMT
23 Feb 89*

[Text] New Delhi, 23 Feb (INA)—An Iraqi envoy dispatched by President Saddam Husayn to Indian Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi arrived here today. Nizar Hamdan, Iraqi president's envoy and Foreign Ministry under secretary, told the INA correspondent in New Delhi that he carries a message from President Saddam Husayn to Rajiv Gandhi.

He said that during his visit to the Indian capital he will hold talks with K.K. Tiwari, Indian minister of state for foreign affairs, and other Indian officials on Iraqi-Indian relations and other international issues.

Meets With Indian Officials

*JN2302174189 Baghdad INA in English 1610 GMT
23 Feb 89*

[Text] New Delhi, Feb. 23, INA—Federal Minister of State for Foreign Affairs K.K. Tiwari received today Iraqi Undersecretary of Foreign Affairs, Nizar Hamdan who arrived in New Delhi this morning as special envoy of President Saddam Husayn.

Mr. Nikzar Hamdan also had meeting with Permanent Secretary in Foreign Ministry Alfred Gonslaves.

INA was told that during the meeting they discussed the bilateral relations and the latest development in the Iraq-Iran negotiations.

Discussions also took place on the formation of the Arab Cooperation Council and the situation in the region.

Ambassador of Iraq 'Abd al-Wadud al-Shaykhali was present at both the meetings.

Briefing the newsmen spokesman of Foreign Ministry said that the talks which the Iraqi envoy had with Minister Tiwari and Gonslaves also covered the situation in Afghanistan after the withdrawal of Soviet troops and Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi's visit to Pakistan in last December.

Defense Minister Hopes for Normalcy in Sri Lanka
*BK1802045689 Delhi Domestic Service in English
0435 GMT 18 Feb 89*

[Text] The defense minister, Mr K.C. Pant, has expressed the hope that with the new Parliament and government in Sri Lanka, the situation would soon return to normal. He was speaking at a function in Chandrapore, Maharashtra to commemorate the birth centenary celebrations of Pundit Govind Ballabh Pant [a freedom fighter].

The minister said that the IKPF [Indian Peacekeeping Force] has done commendable service in the establishment of peace in Sri Lanka. He said once the situation is completely normal in the island, the PKF would be withdrawn gradually.

The defense minister appealed to the LTTE to give up arms and join the democratic process.

Agitation Disrupts Delhi-Howrah Railway Traffic
*BK2302035189 Delhi Domestic Service in English
0240 GMT 23 Feb 89*

[Text] The railway traffic on the Delhi-Howrah route is disrupted following a rail roko [stop-the-train] agitation by some trade union workers at Kanpur since yesterday afternoon. Several trains on this route are stranded at different railway stations.

Our Kanpur correspondent reports that thousands of workers forcibly stopped trains. Government officials are trying to settle the issue.

Student Strike Disrupts 'Normal Life' in Assam
*BK2402065589 Delhi Domestic Service in English
0630 GMT 24 Feb 89*

[Text] In Assam, normal life in Kokrajhar and Udalgi areas has been disrupted since early morning following a 24-hour bundh [strike]. The bundh has been called by the All Bodo Students Union, demanding unconditional release of the convener of the Voluntary Force, Mr Sona Ram Baglani, who was arrested by the police a few days ago. Offices, educational institutions, shops, and markets are closed. Some vehicles on the national highway are plying with police escort, but in interior areas there is no vehicular traffic. The Northeast Frontier Railway has canceled and regulated its train services during the bundh period.

The state government has tightened security measures in all the sensitive areas and Army has been kept on alert to assist the administration.

Editorial Supports Plans To Boost Arms Exports
*BK1702113189 Delhi THE HINDUSTAN TIMES
in English 2 Feb 89 p 11*

[Editorial: "Joining Arms Bazaar"]

[Text] The Government deserves a pat for the sensible decision to go for substantial defence exports as also to associate private industry with defence production. But, as Defence Minister K. C. Pant indicated in a "meet-the-Press" address in New Delhi on Monday [30 January] policy-makers still seem to suffer from some inhibitions. There appear to be nagging doubts that India's non-aligned credibility might be damaged if it emerged as a major arms exporter. Hence the emphasis on using such reassuring phrases as "non-aggressive" marketing efforts.

A certain amount of diplomatic finesse may be necessary in these matters. But there can be little sense in setting up an organisation for boosting exports, and then cramping its style. If non-alignment is not sullied by arms purchases by the developing countries, arms sale by them should not attract blame. Indeed, it is the developing countries, mostly nonaligned, who account for more than 90 per cent of the world arms market worth \$35 billion.

As much as 80 per cent of the arms traded are supplied by the top five countries—the Soviet Union, the United States, France, Britain and West Germany. In recent years, China with an export volume of \$1.04 billion (in 1987) has emerged as the sixth largest arms exporter.

Having made the decision to boost defence exports, the Government should not feel hamstrung by any consideration. After all, Indian products have to compete with European, American and Chinese manufactures which are of a high quality. Unless well-known business principles are followed, including sound marketing practices, good intentions alone would not carry India far. There are strong and pressing economic reasons for stepping up defence exports. While defence imports by India in 1987 were worth \$5.24 billion, exports by the country's 35 ordnance factories and several other defence public sector undertakings totalled a paltry rupees 13 crore (less than 10 million US dollars).

The difficult prospects of the balance of payments position in the years ahead would not only affect plans for defence purchases, they might also have an adverse effect on efforts for the upgradation of technology in the defence and civilian industries. There has been a weighty debate on reducing the nation's defence budget. It is not certain if such expenditure can be cut substantially, what with India's need to acquire a blue water navy to safeguard the 200-mile exclusive economic zone.

However, at least part of the defence expenditure can be met through profits from the defence industry. It is not known how soon can Mr Pant set up the agency for promoting defence exports, but his ministry should lose no time to establish liaison with the private sector to discuss the new areas where defence production can be shared with the latter.

Iran

USSR's Eduard Shevardnadze To Meet Khomeyni LD2302161889 Tehran IRNA in English 1615 GMT 23 Feb 89

[Text] Tehran, Feb. 23, IRNA—Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze is to personally submit to the leader of the Islamic revolution, Imam Khomeyni, a message from USSR President Mikhail Gorbachev, during his three day official visit to start February 25, according to the Persian daily RESALAT.

Shevardnadze will be the first foreign minister of the outside world to meet the founder of the Islamic Republic.

He is also scheduled to confer with Iranian officials on regional and international issues including Afghanistan and other matters of mutual interest.

Iran's Ambassador in Moscow Nasir Heyrani-Nobari told a press conference early this week that Tehran-Moscow relations are on a "sound footing" despite all ups and downs.

Gorbachev's message is a response to the imam's historic epistle last January 5, in which he hailed the Soviet leader's bold reforms and invited him to study Islam as a healthy substitute for the decadent Marxist system.

Every 5th person in the USSR is a Muslim and Imam Khomeyni lauding the new atmosphere after "70 years of oppression" said "henceforth communism should be looked for in museums of political history."

'Text' of Khomeyni Message to Teachers, Students LD2302124589 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1032 GMT 23 Feb 89

[Text] At the beginning of this hour's news bulletin we draw your attention to the full text of the very important message of the imam of the ummah addressed to the instructors and students of religious seminaries and Friday and congregational imams [a'emmeh-ye jom'eh va jama'at]:

In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. To their eminences the clergymen [ruhaniyyun] throughout the country, the illustrious maraj'i [sources of emulation or supreme religious authorities] of Islam, honorable instructors, and dear students of religious seminaries and esteemed Friday and congregational imams, may their blessings continue. A benediction and the salutations of God and the prophet of God upon the pure souls of the martyrs, especially the dear martyrs of the religious seminaries and members of the clergy.

Greetings to these entrusted with divine inspiration, and to the mission of those martyred custodians who have carried the pillars of the greatness of pride and honor of the Islamic revolution on their red-blooded shoulders of promise. Greetings to the everlasting epic-makers of the clergy who have written their theoretical and practical epistles with the crimson of martyrdom and ink of blood, and who upon the pulpit of guidance and preaching and leadership of the people turned the candle of their existence into a luminous pearl.

Honor and pride upon the martyrs from religious seminaries and from among the members of the clergy who in the thick of the battle cut off the bonds of their attachment to lessons and discourse and schools and who took off the chains of worldly desires from the feet of the truth

of science, and with lightness of feathers went to the feast of the denizens of paradise, and recited the song of attainment in the assemblage of the heavenly souls.

Salutations to those who rushed forward for the sake of the discovery of the inner meaning of jurisprudence, and who became sincere beacons of warning to their nation and community; whose complete sincerity was attested to by the drops of their blood and their torn flesh. In truth, nothing except that could be expected from the true divinity of Islam and Shi'ism, but that they offer the first sacrifices in the call to truth and in the bloody path of the peoples' struggle, and whose final testament is their martyrdom.

Those who have experienced the inner circle of the recitation of the sincere members and the dawn meditation of supplicants of the religious seminaries and members of the clergy, in the ecstasy of their reunion with God, have no other wish but martyrdom. In the feast of their sincerity and mystic reunion they have not prayed for anything but the prize of martyrdom.

Of course, all the seekers and enthusiasts have not achieved their goal of martyrdom. One like me has spent a lifetime in the darkness of veils and shelters, and in the house of action and life I have found nothing but sheets and books of egotism; while another one at the start of the long night of life [shab-e yalda; the longest night of the year] has torn away the black breast of ambitions and has made a covenant of reunion and martyrdom with the white dawn of love.

This notwithstanding, how could I, who have not yet come into life from the coffin of non-existence, describe the guides of the caravans of existence? I, and those like me, can only hear a sound of the bells from that caravan. Let me stop and move on.

There is no doubt that in the course of the history of Islam and Shi'ism the religious seminaries and committed clergy have formed the most important and fortified base of Islam in the face of onslaughts, distortions, and perverseness. The great 'ulema of Islam, throughout their lives, tried to propagate those things which have been made lawful or unlawful by God, without any amendment or distortion. Were it not for the beloved clergy, it would not be clear today what forms of science would be fed to the masses as sciences of the Koran, Islam, and the prophet's family—peace be upon them.

The collation and safeguarding of the Koranic sciences and the esteemed prophet's traditions and writings, and those of the esteemed immaculate ones [imams]—God's peace be upon them—and the compiling, editing, and codification of that material under difficult conditions, when facilities were very scarce and when kings and tyrants used all their means to eradicate such material, has not been an easy task.

Praise be to God, today we can see the results of those efforts in the valuable works and books, such as the "Arba'eh," and the other books written by past and present researchers and authors on diverse subjects such as jurisprudence, philosophy, mathematics, science of texts, methodology of discourse, traditions, biographies of the pious, interpretation, literature, mysticism, lexicography, and all the other numerous branches of the sciences. If we do not describe all these efforts and hard work as jihad in the path of God, how else can we describe them?

Regarding the dimensions of the scientific services of religious seminaries, there is a lot to be said which cannot be referred to in this brief note. Thanks be to God, the religious seminaries are rich and full of initiative in the sources and methods of discussion and religious judgement. I do not think that for a profound and comprehensive study of Islamic sciences a method can be found which is more suitable than the method used by former 'ulema. The history of more than 1,000 years of research and study of the true scholars of Islam is proof of my point in achieving fruition in the holy plant of Islam.

For hundreds of years the Islamic clergy have been the shelter of the deprived people. The oppressed people have always drunk their full from the pure fountain of the gnosis of illustrious jurisconsults [foghah]. Even if we set aside their scientific and cultural endeavors, which are in some respects truly more noble than the blood of the martyrs, in every age they have experienced hardships and bitterness for defending their religious and national sanctities. Side by side with enduring captivity, banishments, imprisonments, hardships, sufferings, and malicious talk, they have also offered noble martyrs to the holy presence of the Truth [God].

The clerical martyrs are not confined merely to the martyrs of struggle and the war in Iran. Certainly, the number of unknown martyrs from religious seminaries and from the ranks of the clergy who, in the path of the propagation of divine learning and laws, wrongly lost their lives at the hands of mercenaries and ignoble people is very numerous. In every divine and popular movement and revolution, the 'ulema of Islam were among the first pioneers whose forehead was daubed in blood and martyrdom. Which Islamic or popular revolution can you find in which seminaries and the clergy have not pioneered the cult of martyrdom? Who did not rise to the top of the gallows, and whose pure bodies were not soaked in blood on the path of bloody events?

On the 15th of Khordad 1342 [5 June, 1963] and in the events prior to this and after victory, to which strata did the first martyrs belong? We thank the Almighty that from the walls of the seminaries to the frightening and solitary cells of the shah's regime, and from the streets and roads to the mosques and the prayer niche of the Friday prayer leaders and congregation, and from offices

and workplaces to the front lines of the warfronts and minefields, the pure blood of the martyrs of seminaries and the clergy has adorned the horizon of jurisconsultancy [feqahat].

At the pride-endowing end of the imposed war too, the number of the martyrs, the disabled, and the missing in action of the seminaries was higher in relation to other strata. More than 2,500 seminary students throughout Iran have been martyred during the imposed war and this number shows to what extent the clergy was prepared to defend Islam and Islamic Iran.

Today too, just as in the past, the colonialist hunters, throughout the world—from Egypt and Pakistan, Afghanistan and Lebanon, Iraq and the Hejaz, and Iran and the occupied territories—have gone after the lion-hearted clergy which is against the East and West and relies on the fundamentals of the pure Muhammadan—may God's peace be upon him—Islam. From now onwards too, the world of Islam every now and then will be witness to the explosive wrath of world-devourers directed against a devout clergyman.

The genuine 'ulema of Islam have never given in to capitalists, and moneyworshippers and lords [khavanin], tribal chiefs, or big landlords, and they have always preserved this decency for themselves. It is a vulgar injustice for anyone to say that the hands of the genuine clergy siding with Muhammadan Islam is in the same position [kaseh] and God does not forgive those who publicize in this way or who think in this way.

The committed clergy are thirsty for the blood of parasitical capitalists and they have never been in a state of conciliation with them and will never be in that state. They have studied with piety, virtue, and hardship, and after passing through the stages of science and spirituality, they have still continued to live in the same pious manner, and with poverty and abjectness without belonging to the luxuries offered by the world. They have never given in to obligation or oppression. Attention and research into the lives of the former 'ulema tells us of the poverty and ultimately their generous spirits to acquire knowledge and how, under candlelight and moonlight, they studied and lived in contentment and were magnanimous.

The promotion [tarvij] of clergymen and jurisconsultancy neither involved the force of the sword nor the investment of money-worshippers and the wealthy. Rather, it was their own talent, sincerity, and commitment that made people chose them. The opposition of the clergymen to some of the manifestations of civilization in the past was merely due to the eradication of foreign influence. Sensing danger from the direction of the expansion of foreign culture—notably the trite culture of the West—was what caused them to confront with caution the innovations and phenomena.

Genuine 'ulema had seen so many lies and deviousnesses by the world-devourers that they could not trust anything and certain tools, such as the radio and television, was to them the preliminary of the entry of colonialism. Thus, they would sometimes issue rulings [hokm] forbidding their utilization. Were not the radio and the television in countries such as Iran not the means used to bring Western culture as a gift? Did not the former regime not use the radio and the television to render valueless religious beliefs and ignore national traditions and customs?

In any case, great characteristics such as contentment and courage and patience [sabr] and virtue and seeking knowledge and avoiding dependence on the powers, and most important of all, sensing responsibility vis-a-vis the masses, have revived the clergy, rendered it steadfast and popular [mahbub]. What greater honor is there than the clergy, with very little resources, has spread the ideology of pure Islam in the territory of the thoughts and ideas of Muslims; and the holy bud of jurisconsultancy has bloomed in the garden of the spiritual life of thousands of scholars.

Truly, if anyone thinks that colonialism has not persecuted and does not persecute the clergy which has so much greatness and honor and influence, is this not naive? The issue of the book, "The Satanic Verses," is that it is a calculated move aimed at rooting out religion and religiosity, and above all, Islam and its clergy. Certainly, if the world-devourers could, they would have burned the roots and the title of the clergy.

But God has always been the guardian of this sacred torch and, God willing, he will continue to be so on condition that we recognize the tricks, ploys, and deceptions of the world-devourers. Of course, this does not mean that we should defend all clergymen, since, those dependent, pseudo and ossified clergy [ruhaniyun-e vabaste va moqaddas-nama and tahajor-gera] have not been and are not too few in numbers [as heard].

There are persons who are active against the revolution and pure Muhammadan Islam in the seminaries. Today, there are some people who under the guise of piety, are striking such heavy blows at the roots of religion, revolution, and the system that you would think they have no other duty than this. The danger of the tendency toward becoming stagnant and those stupid pseudo-pious people in the seminaries should not be underestimated. The dear seminary students must not for a moment forget about the existence of these deceptive snakes with colorful spots on their skins. These are the propagators of U.S. Islam and the enemies of God's prophet. Should not the unity of the dear seminary students be preserved in the face of these vipers?

When colonialism become despondent regarding the total destruction of the clergy and the seminaries, it chose two ways to deliver its blows: One was by bullying and force, and the other by domination and influence. This century, when the weapon on intimidation and

threats did not work well at all, ways of exerting influence became strengthened. The first and most important move was the suggestion and voicing of the slogan of separating religion from politics, and unfortunately, this weapon has, to some extent, been effective to the point that intervention in politics is considered to be below the dignity of the jurisconsult [faqih] and in the political arena, carries with it the insult of being affiliated with foreigners.

Indeed, the struggling clergy have been more hurt from influence from within. Do not think that the slander of affiliation and irreligiosity have been made against the clergy only by others [aghyar]. Never! The blows of the uninformed and informed but dependent clergy has been and is, much more effective than those delivered by others.

At the onset of the Islamic struggle and resistance, if you wanted to say that the shah is a traitor, you would immediately hear the response that the shah is a Shi'ite. A number of pseudo and reactionary clergymen thought that everything was unlawful and no one had the strength to raise his head and face them. The blood which has poured out from your old father's heart [Khomeyni refers to himself] due to the blows received from this ossified category, has never been the same as his sufferings at the hands of others.

With the slogan on the separation of religion from politics settled and the jurisconsultancy, according to the logic of the uninformed, drowned in minor and devotional injunctions [ahkan-e fardi va ebadi] and the jurisconsult too was forced to not be allowed to break through this fortress and limitation and intervene in politics and government, the stupidity of the clergyman in his dealing with people became a mark of honor.

In the opinion of some people, a clergyman was worthy of respect and honor when stupidity engulfed all his being; otherwise, there was something odd [kaseh zir-e nim-kaseh] about a clergyman who was ('honest), efficient, and knowledgeable in what he was doing and clever. This was an issue that prevailed in the seminaries—that is, anyone who was more devious [har kas kaj rah miraft] was more religious and devout. Learning a foreign language was considered to be blasphemy and philosophy and mysticism were considered to be sinful and polytheistic.

At the Feyziyeh Seminary my small child, Mostafa [son who subsequently died in Iraq while Khomeyni was exiled there], drank water; they [seminarians] cleansed the jar [meaning that his son, being the son of a philosophy teacher, was religiously unclean]. That was because I used to teach philosophy.

I have no doubt that if that same trend had continued, our clergy and the seminaries would have acquired a situation similar to the churches of the Middle Ages.

However, God graced the Muslims and the clergy, made us indebted to Him—He preserved the crown and the real glory of the seminaries.

The 'ulema who believe in faith have been trained in these same seminaries and having thus trained they have separated their ranks from the others. Our great Islamic uprising has been sparked by this flame.

Of course, the seminaries are still involved in both systems of thought. We must guard against the system of thought advocating the separation of religion from politics and not to allow it to permeate the layers of the thought of the dormant seminarians inflicting the young students of seminaries.

One of the problems that must be raised for the young students is this same issue that how, during the troubled period when the influence of unaware pious and illiterate simpletons was rampant, some individuals take it courageously on themselves to invest their lives and their dignity to salvage Islam as well as the seminaries and the clergy.

At that time the situation was not like what it is today. Anybody, who was not 100 percent devoted to the struggle, would give in under the pressure and threats of the sanctimonious people.

The spread of the system of thought that the shah was the shadow of God, or that one could not stand up against tanks with flesh and skin, and that we were not religiously bound to wage crusades and struggles, or that who was to stand accountable for the blood of those killed—and more defeatist of all, the misleading slogan that government prior to the appearance of the hidden imam was wrong—and thousands of other excuses were great and tiring problems, which could not be prevented through giving advice, peaceful struggle, or sermons.

The only solution was to struggle, engage in self-sacrifice, and offer blood—which God made possible. The committed 'ulema and clergy prepared themselves for confrontation with all sorts of poisonous arrows which were being fired at Islam. They arrived at the slaughter-house of love.

The first and most important and bloody chapter of struggle happened at the 'Ashura [10th of the Arabic month of Muharram which according to Shi'ites is the most important mourning day] of the 15th of Khordad [5 June]. On 15th Khordad of 1342 [5 June 1963] it was not merely the confrontation with the bullets of the shah's rifles and machineguns—if that were the only thing, then the confrontation would have been easy. In addition to that, there was the bullet of deception and sanctimonious piety from our own ranks. There was the bullet of sharp tongues and double talk from our own ranks. They used to hurt a thousand times more than the lead of the bullet.

There was no day, at that time, which did not witness an event. The overt and covert agents of the shah and the United States resorted to rumors and slanders. They even accused those who led the movement of having abandoned prayers [tarek-al salat] and of being communists and agents of the United Kingdom.

In reality, the pure clergy used to weep blood in their solitude and captivity, lamenting over how the United States and its servant, Pahlavi, wanted to uproot religion and Islam and yet how a number of unaware and sanctimonious clergymen, or those who were deceived, or those who were dependent whose faces were revealed after the victory were paving the course of this great treason. The blows inflicted by this kind of sanctimonious clergy on Islam have not been inflicted on it by any other group. The most revealing example of this kind of blow is the victimization of the lord of the faithful, peace be on him—which is clear in history.

Let me pass by and leave omit this lest I cause the tastes to be more bitter than before. Yet, the young students of the seminaries must know that the file on the system of thought of this group is still open and that only the ways of sanctimoniousness and peddling faith have changed. Those who were defeated yesterday have become peddlers in politics today. Those who did not allow themselves to enter into political affairs have now become supporters of those who had gone so far as to overthrow the regime and stage coups.

The Qom and Tabriz disturbances—coordinated by the leftists, monarchists, and the separatists of Kordestan—are but one example which we can now talk about. They failed to achieve their ends in that event but they did not give up; they surfaced in the Nodzeh coup. Yet again the God exposed them.

A group of other sanctimonious clergy—those who used to regard religion as separate from politics prior to the revolution and who used submit to the court—have all of a sudden become faith abiding, and have hurled accusations of being Wahhabis [Saudis], and worse than that, at the dear and honorable clergymen who have endured so much suffering in exile for Islam. In the past, the stupid sanctimonious clergy used to say that religion is separate from politics and that the campaign against the shah was sinful. Today they say that the responsible authorities of the regime have become communists.

Until yesterday, they used to regard as useful and open the freedom to sell alcohol, corruption, and prostitution, as well as the government of the tyrants—useful and open for the advent of the hidden imam, our souls be sacrificed to him. Today, they cry out that a minor offense is being committed against sharia at a corner—an offense which is never desired by those responsible. They should, O Islam [meaning Islam is being lost].

Yesterday, the adherents of Hojjatiyeh had prohibited the struggle. During the thick of the struggle they made great efforts to break the glorious strike of the middle of Sha'ban [a holy day among Shi'ites] in the interest of the shah. Today, they are even more revolutionary than the revolutionaries.

The velayatis of yesterday [those Shi'ites who believe there could be no Islamic government prior to the appearance of the hidden imam whose period of hiding is infinite], who have lost face for Islam and Muslims because of their silence and their stagnation and who have in action broken the back of the prophet and the members of the house of piety and infallibility and for whom the title of velayat [meaning guardianship but in effect implying that they do nothing until the hidden imam appears] has been nothing but an excuse to engage in profiteering and good living, today they masquerade as the founders of and heirs to Velayat [guardianship of the Muslims]. Yet they are nostalgic for the shah's period of Velayat [his period of rule].

Really, who are those who accuse us of being American, Russian, and or belonging to eclectics [eltheghati], accuse us of sanctioning what is prohibited religiously, accuse us of killing pregnant women, sanctioning gambling and music? Are the accusers the apostate, or are they the stupid and dormant sanctimonious individuals?

Who are those who cry out to boycott war against the enemies of God? Who ridicules the culture of martyrdom and the martyrs? Who makes insinuations and ironic remarks on the legitimacy of the regime? Who are they? Are they the common people or the elite? Elite belonging to what group? Belonging to the pseudo-turbaned [clerics] or others? Let us leave that topic as well, even though there is a great deal more to say.

All these have resulted from the influence of the foreigners in the place and the culture of the seminaries. Yet it is difficult and a complicated affair to engage in a realistic confrontation with these dangers. It is not an easy task, on the one hand, to shoulder the propagation of facts and realities and to enforce rights and justice to one's capacity; and on the hand, to guard lest one may give an excuse to the enemies.

Despite the fact that, in our country, there is no difference between the clergy and laity when it comes to executing justice, yet when the government religiously, legally, and seriously confronts an offending clergyman—whether enjoying a good reputation or not—all of a sudden they cry out: O people, be aware that the Islamic Republic intends to defame the clergyman. If an offending cleric happens to be entitled to a pardon and then is pardoned, they publicize that the regime is giving the clergy undue concessions.

The dear people of Iran must be on guard lest the enemies abuse the regime's decisive confrontation with the offenders belonging to the so-called clergy; lest they

turn your minds against the committed clergymen through propaganda and disruptions. People must accept the regime's justice that it does not recognize concessions to anybody. God is aware that personally I do not accept the slightest immunity, rights, and concessions for myself.

If I commit a fault, I also deserve to be scolded. Now the debate centers on what we should do to prevent a repetition of those bitter events, and to ensure that foreigners have no influence in the seminaries. Even though the task is a difficult one, some thinking must be done, as there is no other choice.

The first religious and divine duty is for the seminaries and the revolutionary clerics to maintain unity and solidarity; otherwise, a dark night will be ahead of us, and the waves of a whirlwind will separate us. Today, there is no religious or logical reason to allow the differences in tastes, differences in assumptions, and even weaknesses in management to cause the disruption of the sense of belonging and unity among the seminary students and the committed clergy. It is possible for anyone to have criticisms, in the sphere of his own ideology, on the performance, management, and the tastes of others.

However, the tones and the interpretations should not divert the thoughts of the society and its propensity toward the recognition of the real enemies and the superpowers—from whom all difficulties and shortages emanate—toward secondary issues. Lest, God forbid, all the weaknesses and difficulties are blamed on the management and the officials, and be interpreted as monopolism [enhesar-talabi]. Such is grossly unfair, leading to the undermining of the officials of the system, thereby paving the way for the entry of those persons who are indifferent and devoid of pain to the arena of revolution.

Today I am convinced that it was not clear whether the most powerful persons could have achieved more success than what the existing individuals have achieved, considering those plentiful conspiracies, animosities, and war mongering that were waged in the world against the Islamic revolution. Through a fair analysis of the events of the revolution, especially during its first decade, I should say that the Islamic revolution of Iran has been successful in most aspects and objectives. It was with God's assistance that we have not been defeated and conquered in any aspect: Even in the war our nation achieved victory, and the enemies achieved nothing by imposing such a vast degree of devastation.

Of course, had we had all the means and equipment at our disposal, we would have reached even higher aims in the war. But this does not mean that we have been defeated in reaching our main aim, which was the repulsion of aggression and the proving of Islam's steadfastness.

Everyday of the war we had a blessing, which we utilized in all aspects. We exported our revolution to the world through the war. We proved our oppression and the aggressor's tyranny through the war. It was through the war that we unveiled the deceitful face of world-devourers. It was through the war that we recognized our enemies and friends. It was during the war that we concluded that we must stand on our own feet. It was through the war that we broke the back of both Eastern and Western superpowers. It was through the war that we consolidated the roots of our fruitful Islamic revolution. It was through the war that we flourished the sense of fraternity and patriotism [vatan-dusti] in the spirit of each of the people.

Through the war we showed the people of the world—in particular the people of the region—that one can fight against all the powers and superpowers for several years. Our war helped the materialization of triumph in Afghanistan. Our war will lead to victory in Palestine. Our war caused all the chiefs of corrupt systems to feel humiliated before Islam. Our war led to the alertness in India and in Pakistan.

It was only through the war that our military industries enjoyed such momentous growth. Most important of all, the continuation of the spirit of revolutionary Islam only materialized because of the blessing of the war. All of these emanate from the efforts of the mothers, fathers, and dear people of Iran during 10 years of struggle against the United States, the West, the Soviet Union, and the East. Our war was the war of right against wrong, and this war can never come to conclusion. Our war was the war of poverty against wealth. Our war was the war of faith against deceit. This war has been going on since the time of Adam.

How shortsighted are those who think that since we have not reached our final aim at the fronts, then martyrdom, self-sacrifice, and courage are all wasted. The Islam-seeking voice in Africa comes from our 8 years of war. The people's interest in learning about Islam throughout Europe, the United States, Asia, and Africa, throughout the world, stems from our 8-year war.

I officially apologize to the mothers, fathers, sisters, brothers, spouses, and the children of the martyrs and the self-sacrificing devotees because of some of the wrong analysis of these days. I beg God to accept me alongside the martyrs of the imposed war. We do not repent, nor are we sorry, even for one moment, for our performance during the war. Have you forgotten that we fought in order to fulfill our duty, and the result of such fighting was only peripheral? Until the day our nation felt that it had the ability and the obligation to fight, it continued fulfilling its duty.

Lucky are those who had no doubts until the final moments. At the very hour our nation saw the interest of the survival [baqa] of the revolution in the acceptance of the resolution, it had once again fulfilled its obligation. Should the nation be worried that it has fulfilled its duty?

We must not act in a wrong way in our views and the expression of our ideas in order to please a handful of sell-out liberals, lest the dear hezbollahis feel that the Islamic Republic is deviating from its principled positions. Does it not lead to instability in the system? Does it not lead to the loss of people's confidence if we say in our analysis that the Islamic Republic has not achieved anything, or that it has been unsuccessful? Delay in the attainment of all our goals does not constitute a reason for us to retreat from our principles.

We are all obliged to fulfill our duties and religious obligation [taklif]; we are not responsible for the results. If everyone is to be bound to the result of his endeavor, then the prophets and the infallibles ones should not have gone further than the capabilities of their endeavors, or say anything more about the long-term objectives which could never materialize in the course of their superficial life.

With the blessing of God Almighty, our nation succeeded in achieving victories in most of the fields about which it shouted slogans. We experienced the practical materialization of the slogans pertaining to the downfall of the shah. We have decorated the slogan of freedom and independence through our practice. We witnessed the success of the slogan of "Death to the United States" in the action by our heroic Muslim youth in their capturing the U.S. nest of corruption and espionage. We have experienced all our slogans with action.

Of course, we confess that along our practical course many obstacles surfaced which forced us to change tactics and methods. Why should we undermine ourselves, the nation, and the systems officials? And why should we summarize all the intelligence and ability of management in the thoughts of others?

I caution the dear religious seminary students: In addition to their need for vigilance concerning the induction of pseudo clerics and the pseudo pious, they must also learn from bitter experience about the reign of the pseudo revolutionaries and the so-called statemen who have never reconciled themselves with the principles and objectives of the clergy. Such vigilance is required in case their past reputation in treason is forgotten, or baseless sympathies and simplicism should pave their way back to key important positions of the system.

Today, 10 years since the victory of the Islamic revolution, I admit, as in the past, that some of the decisions of the early stages of the revolution in entrusting important positions and affairs to those who did not have pure and real faith in the pure Mohammadan Islam was a mistake. One can not easily remove the bitterness of its consequences.

Although even during that time I personally was not in favor of their taking such a position, I accepted it through consultation with and advice from friends. Even now I strongly believe that they do not think about anything but diverting the revolution and putting it on

course toward the world-devourer, the United States. This is while, in other aspects too, they have nothing to offer but talk and claims. Today we are not sorry that they are not alongside us, because they were not with us from the beginning. The revolution owes no debt to any group. We are still suffering the consequences of the great confidence we placed in groups and liberals.

The country's embrace is always open to those who seek to return home in order to pay their service, but not at the expense of their having claims on the revolution. That is why we said "Death to the United States"; why we had a war; why we are issuing God's decree on the Mojahedin-e Khalq and counterrevolutionaries; why we are shouting the slogan "Neither East nor West"; why we occupied the nest of espionage; and for hundreds of other reasons. The important point in this connection is that we should not be influenced by superficial sympathy for the enemies of God, for the opposition, and for offenders against the system, thereby putting God's decrees and divine punishments under question.

Not only do I not consider some of these cases to be in the interest of the country, but I believe that our enemies benefit from these. I openly declare to those with access to radio, television, and the press—which perhaps are speaking the words of others—that for as long as I live I will not allow the government to fall in the hands of the liberals. For as long as I live I will not allow the Mojahedin-e Khalq to destroy the Islam of these people who have no refuge. For as long as I live I will not deviate from the principle of neither East nor West.

For as long as I live I will cut off the hands of the agents of the United States and the Soviet Union in all fields, and I am absolutely confident that all the people are, in principle as in the past, supporters of the system and of their Islamic revolution. In addition to the hundreds of times in which they declared their presence and preparedness, this year too in the 11 February marches, they demonstrated to the world the reality of their full preparedness. They amazed the enemies of the revolution by showing how far they are prepared to engage in self-sacrifice.

I feel ashamed and far too insignificant to express my appreciation of them or to talk about them. God will have a reward for so much sincerity, self-sacrifice and submission. However, as for those who foolishly accuse our noble and dear people of turning their backs on the principles, the revolution, and the clergy, I urge and advise them that in their remarks, words, and writings they act with care and investigation, and that they do not accuse the people and the revolution of their incorrect understanding and imagination.

The other issue concerns who benefits today from the confrontation and disunity among revolutionary clergy. The enemy has been preparing for a long time to create disunity among the clergy. Ignoring this fact will spoil everything—no matter which form disunity takes,

whether it is intense pessimism toward high-ranking officials, or whether it is differentiation between the traditional and innovative jurisprudence, and such like.

If the instructors and students of religious seminaries are not united, it is difficult to foresee who will benefit. If—although it is impossible to imagine—the ideological superiority goes to the side of the pseudo clergy and ossified persons, what will be the answer given by the revolutionary clergy to God and the people?

God willing, there are no differences among revolutionary instructors and students of religious seminaries. If there are any, what are they? Are they about principles or about different tastes? Have the esteemed instructors, who have been the firm foundations of the revolution in religious seminaries, God forbid, turned their backs on Islam, the revolution, and the people? Were they not the ones who in the thick of the struggle issued decrees about the illegality of monarchy? Were they not the ones who, when a clergyman who pretended to be in a position of *marja'iyat* [source of emulation, referring to the late Ayatollah Shari'atmadari] separated himself from Islam and the revolution, exposed him to the people? Did not the dear instructors not support the fronts and the fighters?

If, God forbid, they are to be broken, what other force would replace them? And will the agents of arrogance not bring the pseudo clergy which they have elevated to the status of *marja'iyat*, or some other person, to take charge of the seminaries? And can those who during the tumult of 15 years of struggle before the revolution and 100 years of back-breaking post revolution events have neither bothered about the struggle, nor worried about the war and the running of the country, nor been saddened as the result of martyrdom of the beloved ones, and who, in peace of mind and without any care have sat down to debate matters or to teach? Can they become the backers of the Islamic revolution in the future?

Truly, the victory of which side and which trend will be guaranteed as the result of the defeat of any side of the clergy or revolutionary students and clergy, revolutionary clergy, or the association of religious instructors? The side which will achieve victory will certainly not be the clergy. If that side would of necessity turn to the clergy, toward which group and school of clergy will it turn? In brief, differences in any form are destructive.

When the forces faithful to the revolution get to the stage of confrontation, even in the name of traditional or innovative jurisprudence, that would be the beginning of the opening of the path to misuse by the enemy. Confrontation will ultimately lead to clashes. Each wing will choose a term or a slogan in order to expel or eliminate its rival. One will be accused of supporting capitalism, while the other is accused of eclecticism. For the sake of maintaining a balance among various factions, I have always issued both bitter and sweet instructions, because I consider all of them as my dear ones and children.

Of course, I have never worried about the intense theological debates on the principles and minor aspects of jurisprudence. However, I am worried about the confrontation and discord among the factions which believe in the revolution, in case it leads to the strengthening of the comfort-seeking and carefree faction, which does nothing but nag and complain. I conclude that if the clergy who are in favor of the revolution and pure Islam move too slowly, superpowers and their servants will bring the issues to an end in their own interest.

The Association of Seminary Teachers should consider the dear revolutionary, hard-working, beaten, and front-serving religious students as their own children. They should hold sessions with them and should welcome their plans and views. In return, the revolutionary religious students should also respect the dear instructors, who support the revolution, and should treat them with respect. They should be as one hand against the ineffective, opportunistic, and nagging groups.

They should become better prepared for self-sacrifice and martyrdom in the path of the guidance of the people, whether the people and the society are seeking the truth—as in our time, when in fact the people have been and are more faithful to the clergy than we imagine—or whether they are not seeking the truth, as in the days of the immaculate ones, peace be upon them.

However, the noble Iranian people should be aware that the propaganda which is made against the clergy is, in general, aimed at the destruction of the revolutionary clergy. The agents of Satan go to the people in times of hardships and difficulties to say that it is the clergy who are responsible for the hardships and inadequacies. Which clergy? The indifferent and irresponsible clergy? No, but the clergy which has always been ahead of everyone else in facing danger in all events. No one claims that the people and the barefooted ones are not faced with difficulties or that all facilities are at the disposal of the people.

Certainly, the effects of 10 years of embargo, war, and revolution can be seen everywhere, and shortcomings and needs are seen everywhere. However, I testify with absolute certainty that if any people other than the clergy had pioneered the revolutionary movement and the making of decisions, today we would have nothing but shame, despondency, and embarrassment in confronting the United States and world-devourers, and nothing but violation of all Islamic and revolutionary principles.

It should be noted that the recitation of part of the events of the revolution and of the clergy does not mean that the religious students and dear clergy, the day after this writing, engage in a harsh and revolutionary action. On the contrary, the aim is to become aware and informed of details, so that in the choice of their path they act with open eyes, and will become more familiar with dangers, passes, and places of ambush.

However, with regard to the method of research and study in religious seminaries, I believe in traditional jurisprudence and Javaheri [compendium of Shi'ite jurisprudence] interpretation, and I do not condone any deviations. Interpretation [ijtihad] is correct through this method. However, this does not mean that Islamic jurisprudence is not dynamic. Time and place are two determining factors in interpretation.

An issue in former times may have had one interpretation; the same issue, which is seemingly the same now in its relationship with the principles governing politics, society, and economy of a system, may have a new interpretation. To that extent, that with a correct understanding of economic, social and political relations, the same old issue which is seemingly not different from the past has in fact become a new issue, which requires a new interpretation.

A mujtahed [person entitled to pass religious judgment or interpretation] should be fully aware of the issues of his time. It is not acceptable even to the people, our youth and even ignorant people that their source of emulation and mujtahed may say that he will not express an opinion regarding political issues.

Familiarity with the methods of confronting the tricks and deceptions of the culture governing the world, the possession of an economic understanding and knowledge, familiarity with the ways of dealing with the economic system dominating the world, familiarity with policies and even politicians and their dictated formulas, the understanding of the position, strengths and weaknesses of the capitalist and communist blocs, which in fact define the strategy of governing the world, are among the characteristics needed by an authoritative mujtahed.

A mujtahed should possess the intelligence and shrewdness necessary for managing and safeguarding a great Islamic or even non-Islamic society. He should, in addition to possessing piety and sincerity, and asceticism befitting a mujtahed, be a skillful manager. Government, from the viewpoint of a true mujtahed, is the practical philosophy of the entire religious jurisprudence [Fiqh] for all aspects of human life. Government reflects the practical aspect of religious jurisprudence in encountering the entire social, political, military, and cultural problems.

Religious jurisprudence is the true and complete theory of the management of man and the society, from cradle to the grave. The main goal is to find a way for the practical application of its solid principles, in the activities of the individual and the society, and to be able to provide answers to problems. The whole fear of the arrogance lies in this issue, that religious jurisprudence and theological qualification [estehad] may acquire subjective and practical application, and provide the Muslims with the impetus to fight back. Indeed, why is it that following the declaration of religious and Islamic edict—

on which the entire 'ulema have reached consensus—pertaining to a foreign mercenary, the world-devourers have been so much angered?

And the heads of infidelity [kufr] and the Common Market and the like have embarked on futile efforts? There is no other explanation than that the heads of arrogance have become alarmed at the Muslims' practical ability to identify and fight their inauspicious conspiracies, and regard today's Islam as a fertile, dynamic, and epic-making school. They are worried that their sphere of mischief has become curtailed and that their mercenaries can no longer confidently continue writing against sanctities, as before. As I have said before, the entire conspiracies of the world-devourers against us have emanated from the imposed war.

The economic sanctions and the like were implemented to prevent us from saying that Islam can provide the society with answers, and to turn to them for advice in our problems and initiatives. We must not be careless. We must move toward a position where, God willing, the whole of the country's affiliated currents will be cut off from such a horrifying world. Western arrogance has perhaps imagined that we will budge and give up the implementation of the instructions imposed by the Great God, once they mention the name of the Common Market and economic principle.

It is very interesting and astonishing that these so-called civilized and intellectuals, when a mercenary author with the aid of his poisonous pen, hurts the feelings of over 1 billion people and Muslims resulting in the martyrdom of a number of people, do not consider it important. This calamity is a sign of the democracy of the civilization, but when it comes to the issue of the implementation of justice and jurisdiction, they gave lectures on compassion and altruism.

We attribute the Western powers' hatred of the Islamic world and Islamic jurisprudence [fegahat] to such points. The issue for them is not that of defending an individual: The issue for them is to support an anti-Islamic and anti-value attitude which has been masterminded by those institutions which belong to Zionism, Britain, and the United States, and which have placed themselves against the Islamic world through their ignorance and haste.

However, we should observe how some Islamic governments and states will face such a great calamity. This is no longer the issue of Arabs and non-Arabs, Fars, and Iran. This is an insult to the sanctities of the Muslims, from the origin of Islam until now, and from today until the end of history. This is the result of foreign infiltration of Islamic culture. This will be the start of further infiltration if we remain careless. Colonialism has many such dangerous snakes and mercenary writers up its sleeves.

It is not necessary for us to pursue the establishment of extensive ties, because our enemies might imagine that we have become dependent on and attach so much importance to their existence, to the degree that we quietly condone insults to our beliefs and religious sanctities. This is an example for those who continue to believe this, and say that we must revise our politics, principles, and diplomacy, that we have blundered and must not repeat previous mistakes; those who still believe that extremist slogans, or war, will cause the West and East to be pessimistic about us, and that ultimately all this has led to the isolation of our country; those who believe that if we act in a pragmatic way they will humanely reciprocate and will mutually respect nations, Islam and Muslims.

God wanted the blasphemous book "The Satanic Verses" to be published now so that the world of conceit, arrogance, and barbarism would show its true face in its long-held enmity toward Islam; so it would awaken us from our simplicity and prevent us from attributing everything to blundering, bad management, and lack of experience; so we would fully realize that this issue is not our mistake, but an effort by the world-devourers to annihilate Islam and Muslims. The Salman Rushdie issue is otherwise not so important to them as to place Zionism and world arrogance behind it.

The clergy and the dear hezbollahis, and the respected families of the martyrs must be on guard not to allow the blood of their dear ones to be wasted through these writings and wrong thoughts. My concern is that today's analysts should be occupying the seat of judgment in 10 years time and will say that one must assess whether the Islamic decree and the verdict of execution on Salman Rushdie was in accordance with diplomatic regulations or not. They may conclude this because the expression of God's decree led to repercussions, and the EEC and the Western countries have taken positions against us. Therefore, we must not act in an immature way and leave the initiators of insults to the sacred position of the prophet and Islam.

Briefly, without regard to the cunning West and aggressive East, and free from the diplomacy which rules the world, we must try to bring about the realization of Islamic religious jurisprudence in practice. For as long as religious jurisprudence is confined to the books and hearts of the 'ulema, no harm will face the world-devourers. The clergy will not be able to understand that the customary *ejtehad* is not sufficient for the administration of the world for as long as they do not have an active presence in all difficulties and problems.

The seminaries and the clergy should always sense the pulse of the future thoughts and needs of society, and should always be a few steps ahead of events and prepared for appropriate reaction. The customary methods for the administration of people's affairs may change in the

future, and societies may find themselves in need of new Islamic concepts to resolve their problems. The esteemed 'ulema of Islam should give serious thought to this.

The last point to which it is necessary to pay attention is that the clergy, the 'ulema, and the religious students should regard judicial and executive affairs as a holy matter and as a divine value for themselves. They should assume for themselves a special character and distinction; not to sit in the seminaries, but to leave the comfort of the seminaries for the sake of implementing the decree of God and become busy in the affairs of the Islamic government.

If a religious student sees the position of a Friday imam and the guidance of people and passing judgment regarding the affairs of the Muslims vacant and if he sees that he has the capability of performing that task, but merely through the excuse of being busy with lessons and discussions and through the love of lessons and *ejtehad* he refrains from accepting that responsibility, he will certainly be found guilty in the presence of Almighty God, and his excuse will never be accepted.

If today we do not serve the system and if we ignore people's unprecedented attention toward the clergy, we will never find a better opportunity and better conditions.

I hope that you will not be hurt as the result of the fond reminders of this old father and your humble servant, and that at prayer times with your heavenly breath and your luminous hearts you pray for me and ask for God's forgiveness for me. I will also never neglect the thought and prayer for genuine clergy and religious seminaries.

O God, increase the strength of the clergy in serving your religion. O God, keep alive the religious seminaries, these bastions of jurisprudence and pure Islam. O God, bestow your limitless bounty and the reward of your presence to the martyrs from the religious seminaries and the clergy. O God, bestow healing upon their disabled ones, and bestow patience and reward upon the families of their martyrs, return those missing-in-action and the prisoners of war to their families as soon as possible. O God, increase and immortalize the value of service to your religion and to the people. Verily, you are the bountiful one. God's peace and blessing be upon you.

[Signed] Ruhollah al-Musavi Khomeini

[Dated] 3 Esfand 67 [22 February 1989]

Further Reportage on Response to Rushdie Book

Islamic Jihad To Take Revenge

LD2302171189 Tehran Television Service in Persian
1600 GMT 23 Feb 89

[Excerpt] The Islamic Jihad Organization for the Liberation of Palestine [IJOLP] has issued a statement, in which it calls on all Muslims throughout the world and

on the Palestinians, to obey Imam Khomeyni's decree and fight the poisonous propaganda and efforts waged by the Western mass media in order to insult Islam. The IJOLP announced that it will take revenge on all those who participated in waging intense and fierce battles against Islam in connection with the Salman Rushdie issue.

Elsewhere in the statement, it says that US imperialism and global Zionism should know that the profane topics in "The Satanic Verses" will in the first place, endanger their own interests. The book's author should know what fate awaits him. [passage omitted]

Majlis Speaker on West's Position

LD2402103489 Tehran IRNA in English 1028 GMT
24 Feb 89

[By Mohammad Javid]

[Text] Tehran, Feb. 14, IRNA—Majlis Speaker Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani Friday demanded Western governments to say whether they agreed with what Salman Rushdie had written about Islam in his blasphemous novel *The Satanic Verses*.

"Muslims believe that you are a partner in its publication... if not, say so," he said.

"I ask this question officially as the speaker of the Majlis: 'Do you support the book *The Satanic Verses* or not?'"

"We Muslims of the world want to know that do Western governments support the contents of *The Satanic Verses*, so that we know what our duty is regarding those who are a partner in cursing the prophet, or not?"

He said Western governments, including the European Community whose 12 nations have recalled their envoys from Tehran, claimed their reaction towards Iran was aimed at defending freedom of expression and condemning interference in their affairs.

Addressing the Friday mass prayers, Hojjat ol-Islam Hashemi-Rafsanjani, who is Imam Khomeyni's deputy as acting Armed Forces commander in chief, also distanced the Islamic Republic from any action which may individually be taken by Muslims in protest against Rushdie's novel. He said the West may also instigate its own agents to carry out "unprincipled and devilish acts" so to blame Iran. But even "if any Muslim carried out his duty this cannot have any links with the Islamic Republic of Iran."

Imam Khomeyni has issued two fatwahs [edicts] calling for Rushdie's execution and awards of nearly \$6 million have been offered for any Iranian or non-Iranian who carried out the order.

Hashemi-Rafsanjani said the imam's order was not a new invention but had roots in the very beginning of Islam and Sunni and Shi'ite schools of thought were united on the issue.

"Even in places like Saudi Arabia they have been forced to say that (Salman Rushdie) is an apostate and must be killed."

A conference of Muslim theologians organized by the Saudi-led Muslim World League organization in Saudi Arabia Tuesday termed the author of "The Satanic Verses" as a "heretic and renegade" and demanded that he be tried.

The conference was attended by the Saudi chief theologian Shaykh ibn Baz.

The Majlis speaker rejected the West's argument that the death sentence was aimed at suppressing freedom of expression and that it amounted to meddling in the internal affairs of Britain where Indian-born Rushdie lives.

"I have this to ask the 12 member countries of the EC and they should give a fair answer: If an Iranian author in your country came and wrote a book, without lying, about what went on in your own families... how would you react?" "It is clear that you are lying that you want to defend freedom," he said.

Hashemi-Rafsanjani, for the first time in the 10 day old row, indirectly mentioned the most controversial section of Rushdie's novel about the prophet's wives being described as prostitutes.

He suggested that the West would not allow the same foul language used by Rushdie to describe Prophet Muhammad (peace be upon him), his wives and his close followers, be used to describe the real personal life of Western leaders.

As for interfering in other's internal affairs, Hashemi-Rafsanjani noted the arrest of accused Lebanese terrorists by the United States outside its borders, who were put on trial according to American laws.

"We are talking about our law, Islamic Law. He (Rushdie) is at least apparently a Muslim because he is of a Muslim family," he said.

"Now will you give us the right to arrest your citizen, bring him here, and put him on trial for what he has done in another country?"

He rejected those who said Muslims should confront the book with reason, stressing that Rushdie's insults were too outrageous.

"The entire purpose of this book is to... make a bad name for the prophet with a tone which no decent person can accept."

The speaker said the EC's decision to confront the Islamic Republic with the weapon of "freedom and expression" had motivated authors and publishers to take a stand too. "The reputation of publishers and writers has been lost," he said.

Hashemi-Rafsanjani warned foreign writers, many of whom have condemned Iran, that the movement behind Salman Rushdie was politically motivated against the Islamic revolution and had nothing to do with the freedom of expression.

The speaker commented that the West's threats against Iran demanding that the death sentence against Rushdie be withdrawn would not have any effect if carried out.

"Don't repeat these threats of yours all the time," he said in apparent reference to calls by some Western states for economic sanctions.

"These kinds of threats will have no effect. We really mean this and it's not for the content of our people."

"In our mind, we never came to the conclusion and will not come to the conclusion that we must live under the shade of relations (with the West)."

During the last 10 years, when Iran's relations with some Western states were broken off, and when plots and hostilities were aimed against Iran, Iranians learned they must stand on their own feet.

Pointing to Iran's reconstruction era, he stressed Iran could still create a comfortable life for people without having relations with the West.

"If you (Western government) create difficulties, they will be temporary. Prosperity, independence and greatness will follow."

Foreign Ministry on Edict

LD2302150389 Tehran IRNA in English 1500 GMT
23 Feb 89

[Text] Tehran, Feb. 23, IRNA—The Foreign Ministry today warned that global arrogance was planning to unleash a new wave of terrorism and blame it on the Islamic Republic to mar Imam Khomeyni's fatwah [edict].

"The Islamic Republic holds no responsibility for any malicious and terrorist acts that anti-revolutionary elements may possibly commit," a ministry statement made it clear.

It also cautioned against attempts of anti-revolutionary groups to carry out sabotage in some countries and blame them on the Islamic Republic in order to cloud Imam Khomeyni's fatwah for execution of Salman Rushdie.

As per Islamic laws, the leader of the Islamic revolution has sanctioned the execution of apostate Salman Rushdie, the Indian-born British author of the sacrilegious novel "The Satanic Verses" which blasphemes Islam and Prophet Muhammad (peace be upon him).

The price on Rushdie's head runs into millions of dollars, and the imam's purely religious decree also entitles the reward to any non-Muslim who may carry out the execution.

The Foreign Ministry also urged world Muslims to be on alert against global arrogance's plots to exploit their wrath against the sacrilege.

Majlis Statement Condemns 'Plot'

LD2302220189 Tehran IRNA in English 2145 GMT
23 Feb 89

[Excerpt] Tehran Feb. 23, (IRNA)—[Passage omitted] All Beirut dailies carried a statement, by Shaykh 'Abd al-Amir Qablan, in which Qablan said the reason the West opposes the imam's fatwah is because "the decree has exposed all those behind and brought into sharper question London's relations with Arab and Muslim countries. [quotation marks as received]

In the Islamic Republic today, Majlis deputies flayed the "Great Satan" (U.S.) along with the 12-member European community (EC) and the Zionist regime for their support to the Indian born apostate.

Global arrogance's links with "The Satanic Verses" and its devilish author smells of a dangerous plot against Islam and revolutionary Muslims, said a Majlis statement.

It called on 'ulema and heads of state to acquaint Muslims with the depth of the conspiracy and to adopt a clear stance in this regard.

"The Iranian Government and its foreign policy-makers should take a correct posture against such blatant aggression on our spiritual values and beliefs," said the MPS. They also demanded rupture of ties with chief culprit Britain and proper retaliation against other West European states.

Yesterday, Iran's leading writer Ms Zahra Rahnavard had severely condemned Rushdie's blasphemous work. She called upon writers and lovers of literature around the world to campaign against "The Satanic Verses" because it attacked the beliefs of over one-fourth of the planet's inhabitants.

Reports from Sudan, Nigeria, Bangladesh and several other states indicate the growing wrath of the ummah toward's "The Satanic Verses" described as the West's "sheer moral and intellectual bankruptcy against a rapidly growing religion which has no peers where law, order, ethics, freedom and human honour and dignity are concerned.

The Islamic revolution's victory in Iran in 1979, set a tidal wave in motion attracting the world's downtrodden to Islam, and this is what has endangered vested interests imperialist-Zionist interests.

But the question remains can they guarantee the life of Rushdie on whose head hangs a price of millions of dollars?

Relations With UK Reviewed

LD2302222289 Tehran IRNA in English 2150 GMT
23 Feb 89

[Text] London, Feb. 23, IRNA—The Foreign Office has confirmed that it still has relations with Iran but that it entails having no diplomatic representation in each other's capital.

Its clarification came in a statement given to Iran's charge d'affaires in London Mehdi Akhundzadeh-Basti Thursday.

A spokesman told IRNA that essentially the statement said that Britain wanted "reciprocity at zero" at both missions in Tehran and London.

Both embassies will retain flying their respective flags and local non-diplomatic staff are expected to remain working at the missions. It is thought that some 30 local workers are currently employed at the British mission in Tehran.

The two countries probably will need to appoint a protecting power overseeing their missions, but the Foreign Office indicated that it is unlikely to reverse to the previous situation of changing its embassy to a British interests section under the Swedish flag.

The extraordinary situation of relations without representation is believed to be unique between major two countries and reflects Britain's determination not to totally sever formal ties regardless of the difficulties it creates.

British Charge d'Affaires Nicholas Browne returned from Tehran just three weeks after taking up his appointment on Wednesday and will temporary operate from the Foreign Office in London until the position on future relations becomes more clear.

Under an agreement last November, both countries restored ties that led to the opening of the British Embassy in Tehran for the first time in 8 years and the build-up of diplomats to 16 based upon reciprocity that has now been suspended.

The decision to reduce ties to an absolute minimum had been taken by Foreign Secretary Sir Geoffrey Howe in Brussels, following Imam Khomeyni's fatwah on British-based author Salman Rushdie, whose book "The Satanic Verses" is considered by Muslims worldwide as blasphemous.

Observers believe that the imam's iron-will resolve that as per divine laws the apostate should be executed has softened the British position.

UK Paper on EC Position Cited

LD2302144489 Tehran IRNA in English 1430 GMT
23 Feb 89

["Europe Could Pay Heavy Price for Satanic Dispute"—IRNA headline]

[Text] London, Feb. 23, IRNA—Threats of sanctions against IRNA could further backfire on European countries, whose hardline opposition of bringing British-based writer Salman Rushdie to justice is already having an adverse economic impact.

Considering the rising dispute between several European nations and Iran, the London FINANCIAL TIMES Thursday believed that it could ultimately benefit Eastern trade with Tehran at the expense of the West.

European countries want Iran's oil money and a share in its post-war reconstruction, but the European Community (EC) stand-off position regarding Imam Khomeyni's fatwah [edict] on the life of Rushdie will "certainly make business more difficult for the EC," it said.

The 12-member EC condemned the religious decree on Monday and has since hinted at introducing some kind of sanctions against Iran, which the leader of the Islamic revolution has since said would not make Iran deviate from its Islamic principles.

The FINANCIAL TIMES noted that Iran had "quietly" opened up a consulate in the Chinese port of Shanghai and that President 'Ali Khamene'i has been visiting Yugoslavia and Romania that added to its belief that Asian and Eastern European trade could be improved to the detriment of the West.

In particular, it thought that Britain, where the Indian born apostate Rushdie lives and which originally published his offensive book "The Satanic Verses," would be especially hard hit and that along with West Germany and Italy was "already feeling the economic impact."

This is despite Foreign Secretary Sir Geoffrey Howe's attempt to distance the use of sanction from the conflict by stating that it was not something that Britain "normally reaches out to."

The government's export credit guarantee department has also denied that it was reconsidering its policy and claimed that the work of the agency was to act "commercially not politically."

Along with the U.S., Britain has suffered most heavily since the Islamic revolution triumphed in Iran in 1979 and where it has seen its exports nosedive more than half to pounds 308 million in 1987.

British exports fell even further to pounds 248 million in 1988, but with last November's renewal of relations, it had spoken of hopes for a revival before being found to have allowed the publication of Rushdie's book, which Muslims worldwide denounce as blasphemous.

'Cultural' Confrontation Seen

NC2302114189 *Tehran Domestic Service in Persian*
0330 GMT 23 Feb 89

[Unattributed commentary prepared by the Central News Unit Research Group]

[Excerpts] In the name of God. The EEC's recent approach shows, more than anything else, that the insult in the form of "The Satanic Verses" to the holiest of human beings, the Prophet Muhammad, peace be upon him, is not an action by an individual or something stemming from taste, but a collective and extensive effort to instigate a cultural confrontation with Islam. "The Satanic Verses" is not a research book by an expert, but spiteful fiction aimed at insulting the prophet of Islam, peace be upon him, and the sanctities of 1 billion Muslims.

Of course, the publication of such a book with such special characteristics cannot have any value, and the reason behind the preparations by a group to commit such an aggression in support of its author should be sought in the character of the movement that led to the writing and publication of this book. The fact that specific countries in the West are trying, by donning public-pleasing masks, to support the author and the publisher of "The Satanic Verses" shows that this book and its author are only a link in the chain of the new anti-Islamic cultural ploys, and that these countries have no alternative other than this to advance their anti-Islamic objective.

If Salman Rushdie, as a person who has insulted the sanctities of more than 1 billion Muslims, receives the religious punishment due him by the Muslims themselves, and if the publisher of "The Satanic Verses" also is punished for an act that he was aware of, then no one will dare receive payments to disregard the beliefs, sentiments, and rights of more than 1 billion Muslims

and to aggress these. Salman Rushdie's fate will be a good experience and a good lesson for all those who may be tempted to commit such acts in the future.

Meanwhile, current events are yet another sign of the creation of a major and basic development in the world of Islam and among the ranks of Muslims—a development which world arrogance came to know with the victory of the Islamic revolution and with which it was in confrontation with, in one way or another, during the past decade. [passage omitted]

Muslims have a sensitive duty and an important responsibility in confronting this new ploy. If today we do not follow God's decree, acknowledge our religious duty, and adopt a policy of connivance and condescension, then in the tomorrows to come we will witness worse insults and uglier acts because the enemies of Islam do not respect the rights of others. If they see their interests as lying in slavery, racism, killing, occupation, and aggression, they will not spare a moment.

We have witnessed this characteristic of arrogance so far and we can see the genuine examples of this in the various parts of the world, and namely in occupied Palestine. Therefore, displaying faith, determination, and belief in Islamic principles and sanctities is the most important duty of Muslims with regard to anti-Islamic malice.

TEHRAN TIMES Editorial

NC2202113989 *Tehran TEHRAN TIMES in English*
16 Feb 89 p 2

[Editorial from "Opinion" column: "A Satanic Plot"]

[Text] Following the all-important and historical fatwah (religious decree) by Imam Khomeyni the leader of the Islamic revolution on the execution of the author of the blasphemous book "The Satanic Verses", the other Maraje'-ye Taqlid (highest Islamic authorities) suspended their theology classes in protest at the publication of the book and in support of the imam's fatwah. Meantime, the Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran declared February 15 a national day of mourning on this outrageous attack on the divine tenets of Islam.

"The Satanic Verses" is by no means the first blasphemous book written to insult the sanctities of Islam. Such books have once in a while appeared the world over and are aimed at smearing what is held as sacred by Moslems. Never before had any of these books urged the imam to come out with such an ardent fatwah. For instance, the imam has never issued a decree of the same fervor even in dealing with terrorists and anti-revolutionaries stationed abroad although the crimes committed by them are known far and wide.

The imam's position towards the recent case emanates from a fatwah rooted in Islamic jurisprudence. There is a fundamental difference between crimes committed in

secret and those done in public and prejudicial to public sentiments, codes, and beliefs. The retribution for committing sins in secret may be limited in scale and the act ignored or even pardoned. Yet the public violation of the divine laws is very serious and calls for severe punishment.

Insult to the sanctities of Islam is a crime to which no Muslim can turn a blind eye. Particularly, if this crime occurs publicly it would close all the venues to any forgiveness.

A similar case occurred a while ago on January 30 when the Tehran radio officials allowed the broadcast of a live interview during which an insulting remark was made about the holy prophet's daughter, Hazrat Fatimah, God's peace be upon her. This also urged the imam to come out with sanctions for stiff punishment of the officials involved. In this particular case, the imam decreed that those responsible should be sentenced to death in case it is proven they had intentionally insulted the sanctities of Islam.

The main reason for the issuance of fatwah was that the insult was aired publicly all over the country.

It is to be noted that in accordance with the original Muhammadan Islam the decrees are to be implemented without regard to political considerations, much as the Islamic Republic of Iran meticulously has carried out the Islamic code of punishments without paying any attention to opposition to such practices by so-called international human rights groups.

What counts as highly significant in this regard is that the Islamic fatwahs should be issued by a reliable source that is capable of making such religious decrees.

The unified expression of disgust and abhorrence towards the publication of the book "The Satanic Verses" is indeed rightful and praiseworthy. Yet, the issuance of a decree condemning to death the author of the book should only come from those capable of passing such judgments, like Imam Khomeyni.

In the meantime, a crime of this magnitude that has targeted the world of Islam and engaged one billion Muslims can by no means be looked upon in extenuation and pardoned out of considerations based on national boundaries.

British Foreign Minister Sir Geoffrey Howe too should by now have taken note of the message aired in between the lines of the whole episode, as a Persian saying holds "The wise need only one clue."

Paper Urges Coordination in Official Positions
NC1702175089 Tehran RESALAT in Persian
7 Feb 89 p 1

[Unattributed commentary]

[Text] During his 2-day visit to Iran, the French foreign minister held meetings with the country's officials, and all of them stressed expanding the relations between the two countries.

In his meeting with the French foreign minister, President Khamene'i stated: We welcome a broadening of mutual cooperation in all technical, industrial, commercial, cultural, political, and economic fields, and this requires sincere and serious efforts by both parties.

Speaking for the Majlis, Mr Hashemi-Rafsanjani said in his meeting with the French foreign minister: Relations between the two countries can be reciprocally sincere and dynamic if forged on the basis of mutual interests. Cordial bilateral ties are in the interest of the region, as well as in the interest of the Western countries.

Prime Minister Musavi, in his meeting with Mr Ronald Dumas, stressed the need to seek political solutions to problems between the two countries, and to expand bilateral ties. He said: There are various fields in which our ties can be expanded, and we should explore all of them.

Meanwhile, at his meeting with the deputies in the Majlis, Interior Minister Mr Mohtashemi said: Why do we need ties with France?

The questions that arise in the minds of those who read these viewpoints are: Is there any coordination among the officials who have a right to express opinions on foreign policy? Has the interior minister adopted this position along with the cabinet, or is this his personal view? If the latter is true, is it permissible for officials of the country to openly declare opinions contrary to the officially adopted policy of the administration? Does this benefit our system? Is the adoption of an official position the prerogative of the interior minister?

It would be appropriate if the officials of the system were to give concise answers to these questions so that the people know where they stand and the negative propaganda of the Western mass media can be fought—propaganda in which the country's officials are accused of contradictory statements and have been divided into the hardliners and the moderates, the revolutionary or the conservative, and the protagonists of the East or the West.

Polish Economic Minister Arrives for Talks

LD1602085189 Tehran IRNA in English 0745 GMT
16 Feb 89

[Text] Tehran, Feb. 16, IRNA—Polish Minister of Economic Cooperation Dominik Jastrzebski arrived here Wednesday night heading a 14-man delegation to take part in the joint Iran-Poland commission. He was welcomed at Tehran's International Airport by acting Commerce Minister 'Abdol Hoseyn Vahaji.

Jastrzebski and Vahaji held their first rounds of talks Thursday morning.

Meets With Velayati

LD1602202289 Tehran IRNA in English 1432 GMT
16 Feb 89

[Text] Tehran, Feb. 16, IRNA—Expansion of Tehran-Warsaw scientific, technical and economic cooperation was discussed by visiting Polish Minister of Economic Cooperation dominik Jastrzebski and Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati. Velayati said Iran can share her experience in oil industries with Poland.

The Polish official in response declared his country's readiness for joint ventures with Iran in scientific and technical fields especially in constructing refinery complexes in Poland with Iran's cooperation.

Jastrzebski arrived here Wednesday heading a 14-man delegation for an Iran-Poland commission.

Plan, Budget Minister Departs for Romania

LD2102163389 Tehran IRNA in English 1530 GMT
21 Feb 89

[Text] Tehran, Feb. 21, IRNA—Plan and Budget Minister Ma'sud Roghani Zanjani left for Bucharest today to join President 'Ali Khamene'i's delegation expected in Romania tomorrow. The Iranian president is currently visiting Yugoslavia.

Before departure, Zanjani told IRNA that he will review with Romanian officials the note of understanding signed last July and try to remove bottlenecks in the way of bilateral ties. "Tehran and Bucharest are putting their utmost efforts to achieve the level of trade predicted in the protocol," he added, citing the volume of bilateral trade exchanges at dlr 1.18 billion this year.

Zanjani said economic ties with Bucharest have shown a positive trend since the victory of the Islamic revolution, and currently Romania is Iran's second largest trading partner in Eastern Europe.

Iran, he said, has agreed to export 5 million tons of crude oil to Romania this year and in addition Bucharest will also import Iran's non-oil products equalent to 20 percent of its total exports to Iran.

On the joint tractor-manufacturing venture in Iran, he said the two countries' have invested a total of dlr 110 million. Agreement has also been reached in principle for joint manufacture of refinery and oil-drilling equipment, he added.

Zanjani expected a new note of understanding to be signed during his Romanian visit to complete the existing one.

Amnestied Prisoners Demonstrate Outside Mission

LD2302174889 Tehran IRNA in English 1705 GMT
23 Feb 89

[Text] Tehran, Feb. 23, IRNA—Hundreds of recently freed former members of outlaw grouplets demonstrated at the U.N. office here today to protest the "biased stance" of the U.N. Human Rights Commission against the Islamic Republic.

The demonstrators handed deputy chief of the U.N. office Altaf Hussein [name as received] a protest note castigating the Human Rights Commission for adopting such a "biased stance" under the influence of Iranian anti-revolutionaries and imperialist propaganda.

The note asked how was it possible for the commission to support the inhumane acts of outlaw groups and their armed terrorism against the Islamic revolution since its victory in 1979.

The protestors, released under an amnesty declared by the leader of the Islamic revolution, called on world bodies including the Human Rights Commission to press for extradition of ring leaders of outlaw groups to the Islamic Republic.

Later in the day, the penitents accompanied by their families gathered outside the Majlis (parliament), requesting permission to participate in the country's rehabilitation projects.

They also called on Majlis deputies to act upon Imam Khomeyni's orders and provide them with employment facilities and other rights enjoyed by all citizens of the Islamic Republic.

On February 8, the leader of the Islamic revolution agreed to a plea by Information Minister Hoj. Mohammad Mohammadi Reyshahri to grant general amnesty to all imprisoned former anti-revolutionaries excluding the 900 hardcore criminals who have a long record of serious crimes.

A few days later, the information minister said at a press conference that 2,600 of the 3,500 imprisoned members of outlaw grouplets would be released by March 20.

Third Group of Iraqi POW's Departs Tehran
*LD2302110789 Tehran IRNA in English 1043 GMT
23 Feb 89*

[Text] Tehran, Feb. 23, IRNA—A third group of 78 disabled Iraqi POWS returned home on board a Red Cross plane Thursday morning but two of them asked for political asylum from Iran at the airport.

The batch of the 80 POWS released unilaterally by Iran brings the total number released on the occasion of the 10th anniversary of the Islamic revolution of Iran, to 233. Initially 260 POWS were to be freed but 27 of them asked for political asylum, including 11 who refused to leave minutes before others were to board their planes over the past three days. Another 16 had asked for asylum when their list was submitted to Red Cross officials earlier this month.

The POWS were seen off by Iranian officials from the commission in charge of the POWS who also presented some gifts to the POWS.

Nepal

Indian Foreign Minister Invited To Review Treaty
*BK2402005489 Hong Kong AFP in English 2138 GMT
23 Feb 89*

[Text] Kathmandu, Feb 23 (AFP)—Nepal has invited Indian Foreign Minister Narasimha Rao to visit Kathmandu for talks on bilateral relations and a peace and friendship treaty signed in 1950, a Foreign Ministry source said Thursday [23 February].

Mr. Rao was likely to visit the Nepalese capital sometime in March for talks with officials here that the ministry source said were expected to "iron out" misunderstandings that have arisen from Nepal's imports of arms from China among other things.

"If the Indian Foreign Minister Rao comes here next month, it would be a breakthrough in the current state of (the bilateral) relationship," the source said, adding that the 1950 peace and friendship treaty between the two countries was expected to figure in talks between Mr. Rao and Nepal officials.

Under the treaty, nationals of both countries have the right to cross their mutual border without restriction or the need for a visa.

The government, concerned at the adverse impact on the economy stemming from the influx into the country of Indians seeking food and shelter from Bihar, Uttar Pradesh, West Bengal and other states, last year announced the introduction of a work permit system for all foreigners living in Nepal.

The move angered New Delhi which termed it as an "unfriendly gesture" towards India and one that went against the spirit of the 1950 treaty.

India was also reportedly angered by the government's decision to hire Chinese contractors for World Bank and Asian Development Bank-financed projects in Nepal and by its imports last year of firearms from China. New Delhi saw both moves as a threat to its security and against the spirit of the 1950 treaty, observers said.

Officials here said the 1950 treaty did not bar Nepal from importing arms for the needs of its Army and denied that such purchases posed a threat to India. Nepal must inform India if importing arms from a third country.

One source noted that the government had declared Nepal a zone of peace and that no foreign countries could establish military bases here. He said the declaration had received support from 106 countries, including every nation in South Asia except for India.

Differences with New Delhi have delayed the signing of new trade treaties, which expired in March, the source said. The pacts were twice extended for three-month periods and Nepal and India agreed at secretary-level meetings in New Delhi in October to retain them until new agreements were signed.

An important bilateral treaty on transit rights to this landlocked country is due to be replaced after it expires next month.

Political analysts said that if talks between Mr. Rao and Nepalese officials, including his counterpart Shailendra Kumar Upadhyaya, lead to a new spirit of understanding between the neighbours the chances of a speedy renewal of the treaties would be boosted.

Pakistan

Bhutto Meets Foreign Leaders in Tokyo 23 Feb
*BK2302160189 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu
1500 GMT 23 Feb 89*

[Text] Prime Minister Ms Benazir Bhutto, currently in Tokyo to attend the last rites of late Emperor Hirohito, has had talks with several world leaders, including FRG President Richard von Weizsaecker, Jordan's King Husayn, Japan's Prime Minister Takeshita, and French President Mitterrand. Ms Benazir Bhutto apprised these leaders of the Afghanistan situation and the present relations between Pakistan and India.

A spokesman of the Pakistani delegation told newsmen that the leaders of France, Jordan, and the FRG and the Japanese prime minister reiterated their countries' continued support for Pakistan's policy on Afghanistan.

The FRG and French leaders paid tribute to the prime minister on her successful struggle to restore democracy in Pakistan. The Japanese prime minister also expressed similar feelings. Middle East developments were reviewed during the meeting with King Husayn. The Jordanian king praised the leadership of Ms Benazir Bhutto and her efforts toward making Pakistan a progressive Islamic country.

To Meet Bush 24 Feb

OW2002101289 Tokyo KYODO in English 0929 GMT
20 Feb 89

[Text] Tokyo, Feb. 20 KYODO—Pakistan Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto will hold her first meeting with U.S. President George Bush on Friday when the two leaders converge in Tokyo for the funeral of Emperor Hirohito, Pakistan Embassy sources said Monday.

Bhutto, who will be in Japan from February 23-25, will hold talks with Bush immediately following a meeting with Philippines President Corazon Aquino, the region's only other female leader. Bhutto will meet on Thursday with Japanese Prime Minister Noboru Takeshita, King Husayn of Jordan, French President Francois Mitterrand and West German President Richard von Weizsaecker.

Prior to her departure on Sunday, the Pakistani leader will meet with Turkish Prime Minister Turgut Ozal and United Nations Secretary General Perez de Cuellar. She will also meet representatives of the International Monetary Fund (IMF), receive a group of Japanese businessmen and parliamentarians, and have an audience with Emperor Akihito.

Bhutto's trip to Japan will be her second overseas trip since ascending to power last December, following a trip to China last week. Attention is expected to focus on Pakistan's role in the future of Afghanistan and its controversial nuclear program.

Scientist Denies Missiles Carry Nuclear Warheads

BK2402035589 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu
0200 GMT 24 Feb 89

[Text] The renowned scientist, Dr Abdul Qadir Khan, has said that Pakistan is now in a position to manufacture antitank and anti-aircraft missiles at a much lower cost than that in the international market. In an interview with Radio Pakistan, he said the missiles produced by Pakistan cost only about 25,000 dollars each, as compared to those by foreign countries at a cost from 50,000 to 100,000 dollars.

He categorically denied that these missiles can be used as nuclear weapons. The missiles have been manufactured to shoot down only low-flying aircraft, and they are so small that they cannot carry nuclear warheads.

Concerning laser range finders, Dr Abdul Qadir Khan said it was very difficult to acquire them from other countries, as they cost about 10,000 pounds each. But Pakistan has manufactured this system at half the price, and its regular production has now started. He announced that the Pakistani laser finder has a striking range of 15 km, compared to only 8 km of the imported laser finder. We are working to increase the range of our laser finder up to 20 km; it weighs much less than the imported finders.

Answering a question about the enrichment of uranium, he said the project was launched when Canada stopped the supply of fuel for the Karachi Nuclear Power Plant, and the government had decided to achieve self-sufficiency in this field.

Dr Abdul Qadir Khan said he had come to Pakistan at the invitation of the late prime minister, Zulfikar Ali Bhutto, and began work on this project. It was a very difficult project, as there had been no industrial base for this in Pakistan. However, my capable, hard-working, and dedicated colleagues accomplished this task in record time, he added.

Bhutto Discusses Punjab 'Political Dispute'

BK2202042989 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu
0200 GMT 22 Feb 89

[Text] Prime Minister Ms Benazir Bhutto has said that problems faced by the country have been overcome to a large extent following the establishment of the Pakistan People's Party government. She was addressing a dinner hosted by Pir Syed Abdul Qadir Shah Jilani, a National Assembly member, in Rawalpindi last night.

The prime minister said that external dangers to the country's security have lessened and the condition of anxiety in the people has diminished. However, she said, some problems still exist that are causing concern for peace-loving people and those desiring progress in Pakistan. One such problem is that the government of Punjab is different from the federation. Many people think that this is an issue between the federation and Punjab, but I think it is an internal affair of Punjab, she added. Ms Benazir Bhutto said that the people might have noted that federal ministers having no relations with Punjab are not involved in the situation, and only those federal ministers who have connections with Punjab are issuing statements.

She said that this is a political dispute and such disputes are common in politics, adding that politicians usually issue statements against each other and criticize each other's policies. However, she continued, the government of Punjab is unnecessarily creating problems. The prime minister said that the existence of different governments in the federation and in the provinces is not unusual as it has happened in Pakistan in the past. What matters is that all parties should accept the realities. She said that the Islamic Democratic Alliance [IDA] should accept the

fact that the people of Pakistan have not elected it to establish the government at the federal level. If someone feels that the establishment of the government in one province gives them the right to set up the federal government as well, then that person is mistaken.

The prime minister said that she has directed all federal ministers to refrain from getting involved in unnecessary disputes which the IDA government of Punjab is trying to create. She stressed that the people should maintain peace and tranquility. Ms Benazir Bhutto said that Sind and the NWFP, where the law and order situation has not been very good, are now peaceful and there are no disturbances.

Minister Rejects Faisalabad Riot Allegations

*BK2302143289 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu
1400 GMT 23 Feb 89*

[Text] Interior Minister Aitzaz Ahsan has said that the federal government is ready to cooperate with the government of Punjab on various issues, including crime control, drug trafficking, and illegal arms and provision of resources to solve people's problems. He said this while addressing a news conference in Faisalabad today.

Referring to recent disturbances in Faisalabad, the interior minister rejected the possibility of the Pakistan People's Party's involvement in them, adding that the allegations made by the Punjab chief minister in this regard are totally baseless. Aitzaz Ahsan demanded that the investigations into these disturbances should be made by a high court judge in order to ascertain the facts. The interior minister also visited the areas affected by recent disturbances in the city.

Punjab Administration Accused of Election Fraud

*BK2202162389 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu
1500 GMT 22 Feb 89*

[Text] Polling was held today in the by-election to the National Assembly constituency NA-120 Khanewal-cum-Multan. Vote counting began as soon as the voting ended.

Press representatives covering the by-election say that supporters and armed groups of the Islamic Democratic Alliance [IDA] harassed the voters, especially in Makdum Rashid area, and they prevented the polling agents of the Pakistan People's Party [PPP] from getting near the polling stations. In Rahimshah area of the Khanewal District, the IDA supporters occupied a polling station, snatched ballot papers from every voter and stamped them themselves.

The media representatives said that a very large number of provincial ministers, advisers, and members of the provincial assembly were in Multan for the last 2 weeks and were using the police and local authorities to harass the people and arrest them to influence the outcome of the election. They said many PPP workers in charge of some sectors, who were stationed at about 8 to 10 polling stations, were arrested on baseless or no charges. The media representatives also reported that yesterday the IDA candidate and his supporters attacked the registration office and took the registration officer hostage and snatched all identification cards from him. The police followed the groups distributing identification cards wherever they went to prevent them from distributing the cards.

The IDA candidate and his supporters closed the main highway between Lahore and Bahawalpur near the Makdum Rashid area to prevent voters from reaching the polling stations. Many newsmen and photographers were beaten up at polling station No 76 in the Makdum Rashid area. The photographers were taking pictures of unauthorized persons who were stamping the ballots. Some photographers' cameras and flashguns were snatched as the police took no action and no case was registered at police stations.

The Supreme Court today confirmed its interim order on the petition of the Election Commission against the order of the Lahore High Court regarding the transfer of the polling staff of constituency NA-120 Khanewal-cum-Multan. It ordered that the results of by-election for the National Assembly seat from this constituency should not be announced until a decision is made on the petition.

Punjab Chief on Nationals in Bangladesh

*BK2202023489 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu
0200 GMT 22 Feb 89*

[Text] Punjab Chief Minister Nawaz Sharif has offered to resettle in Punjab all the Pakistanis who are stranded in Bangladesh. He said this in a statement in Lahore yesterday.

PRC Vice Minister for Trade Relations Arrives

*BK2402015089 Islamabad Domestic Service in English
1600 GMT 23 Feb 89*

[Text] China is to buy 40,000 bales of cotton this year from Pakistan to rectify trade imbalance between the two countries. This was stated by the Chinese vice minister for economic relations, Mr Li Lanqing, in Islamabad today when he arrived as leader of a high-level trade and economic delegation to Pakistan. The delegation will attend the Joint Economic Commission meeting between Pakistan and China beginning in Islamabad on Saturday.